



U.S. Department of the Interior

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Interior Provides More Than \$11.3 Million in Conservation Funding for Kentucky to Reclaim and Repurpose Abandoned Coal Mines**

*AML funds improve coal communities and the lives of their residents*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt today announced that the [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement \(OSMRE\)](#) will provide \$11,314,447 to Kentucky in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 [Abandoned Mine Land \(AML\) Reclamation grants](#), to clean up and repurpose abandoned coal mines. More than \$170 million in AML Reclamation funding will be available to states and tribes in FY 2020.

“AML grants provide states, tribes and local partners with important resources to reclaim lands and waters impacted by abandoned mines, restoring the promise of the outdoors for hardworking Americans in coal country,” **said Secretary Bernhardt.**

“OSMRE is proud to announce today the 2020 AML grants availability,” **said Principal Deputy Director exercising the authority of the OSMRE Director Lanny E. Erdos.** “These grants will continue to ensure our state and tribal partners have the resources needed to continue their decades of successful work on our nation's AML sites.”

“Kentucky holds great potential for the future, and I’m grateful Secretary Bernhardt and the Interior Department continue investing in our Commonwealth,” **said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (KY).** “As a strong supporter of the AML grants program, I look forward to its many benefits for Kentucky’s environment and the new opportunities it can present for families in the Bluegrass State. I’ll continue partnering with the Trump administration as Senate Majority Leader to deliver critical federal resources for Kentucky communities.”

“The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has worked diligently for more than four decades to address the hazards of abandoned mine land across the country,” **said U.S. Rep. Andy Barr (KY).** “I voted in favor of this funding in Congress as it will aid in giving communities damaged by the loss of coal production a fresh start. The \$11 million allocated to Kentucky today will be used for reclaiming and repurposing land in the Sixth District and across the Commonwealth.”

“This announcement is good news for rural Kentucky, and I am hopeful that this funding from the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Fund will contribute to mine cleanup and future economic development in our Western Kentucky coal communities,” **said U.S. Rep. James**

**Comer (KY).** “As a region that has produced much of the coal that has powered our economy and kept our lights on, it is critical that Western Kentucky sees these coal dollars reinvested back into our local economy. Citizens from our coal communities expect and deserve nothing less, and I am thankful and excited to see Kentucky receive a share of these funds.”

“I am proud to support Kentucky’s coal mines. These grants will help ensure that the coal mines no longer in use can be safely cleaned up and transformed into outdoor spaces,” **said U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie (KY).** “I want to thank Secretary Bernhardt and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement for awarding this competitive grant to Kentucky.”

“These grants help bring our coalfields full circle by providing funds to rehabilitate the same land that generated affordable power and infused our economy through coal mining for generations,” **said U.S. Rep. Hall Rogers (KY).** “Coupled with the AML Pilot Grants since 2016, we are covering more ground faster in Kentucky than ever before. It is vital that we revive our environment and our economy in coal country for future generations.”

OSMRE provides AML grants to the 25 coal-producing states and three tribes based on a congressionally mandated formula that evaluates past and current coal production by these entities. Each year, after the distribution is announced, eligible states and tribes apply for annual reclamation grants to access money in their allocations. OSMRE evaluates and verifies the requests and makes the award amounts available.

The AML Grants are funded in part by a fee collected on all coal produced in the United States. Under the AML Reclamation Program, OSMRE has distributed billions in grants to states and tribes. The funds have directly contributed to AML Reclamation Program achievements including the closure of over 45,000 abandoned underground mine shafts and openings, the elimination of over 960 miles of dangerous highwalls and the restoration of over 850,000 acres of clogged streams and land.

OSMRE and its state and tribal partners have worked for more than 42 years to address the physical hazards posed by lands and waters mined and abandoned or left inadequately restored before 1977 when the [Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act \(SMCRA\)](#) was enacted.

The FY 2020 AML Reclamation funding available to states and tribes is as follows:

<b>State/Tribe</b>	<b>Amount Allocated</b>
Alabama	\$3,356,714
Alaska	\$2,823,000
Arkansas	\$2,823,000
Colorado	\$2,823,000
Illinois	\$11,681,218
Indiana	\$5,731,158
Iowa	\$2,823,000
Kansas	\$2,823,000
Kentucky	\$11,314,447
Louisiana	\$54,775

Maryland	\$2,823,000
Mississippi	\$113,406
Missouri	\$2,823,000
Montana	\$3,326,000
New Mexico	\$2,823,000
North Dakota	\$2,823,000
Ohio	\$6,048,847
Oklahoma	\$2,823,000
Pennsylvania	\$32,171,975
Tennessee	\$2,823,000
Texas	\$1,048,744
Utah	\$813,312
Virginia	\$3,563,263
West Virginia	\$22,865,581
Wyoming	\$35,801,324
Crow Tribe	\$457,853
Hopi Tribe	\$361,073
Navajo Nation	\$1,096,930
<b>National Total</b>	<b>\$170,859,620</b>

To watch videos featuring award-winning AML projects, please visit [OSMRE's YouTube Channel](#).

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