



U.S. Department of the Interior

NEWS RELEASE

Interior Provides More Than \$35.8 Million in Conservation Funding for Wyoming 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 \$35,801,324 to Wyoming 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.”

“I’m pleased we’ve caught up on abandoned mine land (AML) payments to Wyoming. Washington is finally living up to its obligation to the people of our state,” **said U.S. Sen. John Barrasso (WY).** “Even while facing challenging conditions, Wyoming coal is still dominating national production. Our state continues to reclaim all abandoned mine sites, and employs innovative techniques to maximize the ecological health of these sites.”

“Wyoming has always been a proud leader in coal production and it’s great to see our state getting money it deserves,” **said U.S. Sen. Mike Enzi (WY).** “The Abandoned Mine Land money is a dedicated fund set aside for states with coal production. While the federal government has tried to use these funds for other projects in the past, in the previous two years Wyoming has received back payments that the delegation fought hard to ensure were returned.”

“As the nation’s leading coal producer and largest contributor to the AML fund, Wyoming’s coal communities rightly deserve these critical resources,” **said U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney (WY).** “These grants, which we have fought hard to protect, help fulfill the promise made to the people of Wyoming to support investment in reclamation projects and leading-edge technologies like

carbon capture. These hard-earned funds will create new economic opportunities while enhancing Wyoming's land and water resources.”

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:

State/Tribe	Amount Allocated
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
National Total	\$170,859,620

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

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