

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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Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program Grants Available for Acid Mine Drainage Reclamation Projects

Application Period Closes Sept. 7, 2021

WASHINGTON – The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) encourages state partners, qualified non-profit entities, and academic institutions to apply no later than Sept. 7, 2021, for Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program grants that fund not-for-profit acid mine drainage reclamation projects.

The Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program provides supplemental financial assistance to non-profit watershed restoration groups and other non-profit organizations for the construction of acid mine drainage treatment facilities that help restore the biological health of local streams.

Eligible applicants are limited to not-for-profit IRS 501(c) (3) status organizations that meet the following conditions:

- Proof of not-for-profit IRS 501(c) (3) status as determined by the Internal Revenue Service or an authorizing tribal resolution; and
- A proposal that includes details of how the project benefits communities and ecosystems that are impacted by polluted stream(s) and or acid mine drainage.

Opportunities to apply for this financial assistance are posted to grants.gov at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=334501>.

The Department of the Interior and the OSMRE support collaborative reclamation and conservation projects, like the Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program, which enable not-for-profit organizations to restore streams that are affected by acid mine drainage to a level that will support a diverse biological community and provide recreational opportunities for the community.

-- OSMRE --

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.