

Tribal Consultation

Abandoned Hardrock Mine Reclamation (AHMR) Program FY25 Grant Guidance

US Department of the Interior

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

July 8 & 9, 2025



Before We Begin



This is a virtual consultation.



Participants will remain on mute and off camera until the specified time for comments.



Please take a moment to rename yourself to include:

- Your name
- Your position/title
- The Tribe or Organization you are attending on behalf of



Please direct any technical issues during the meeting using the chat function to the Host/CoHost



Comments will be accepted via the chat box.



This consultation session will be recorded.



This consultation is CLOSED to the the press.



Agenda

- Moment of Silence
- Introductions
- Presentation
- Tribal Comments



Moment of Silence



Introductions

Eva Vrana

- Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Environmental Management


Steve Tryon

- Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

Greg Nottingham


- Chief, Environmental Compliance and Clean-up Division





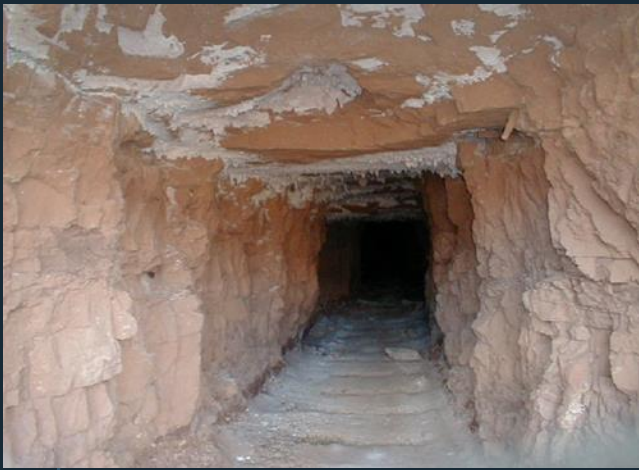
What is the
purpose
of this
consultation?

To receive Tribal input on the draft
FY25 Tribal Grant Directed
Announcement for the
Abandoned Hardrock Mine
Reclamation Program (AHMR)



What is the Abandoned Hardrock Mine Reclamation (AHMR) Program?

- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
 - PL 117-58; November 15, 2021
- Title VII – Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation
 - Section 40704: Abandoned Hardrock Mine Reclamation
 - \$3 billion authorized; \$0 *appropriated*
 - ~\$5 million annually since FY22
 - 1. Federal Program – OEPC
 - BLM, NPS, USFWS, USDA/FS
 - \$4.86 million (FY22-FY24)
 - 2. State Grant Program – OEPC/IBC
 - \$3.5 million for State and private lands, 19 projects
 - 3. Tribal Grant Program – OEPC/IBC
 - ~\$1.4 million available



Benefits of properly closing hardrock abandoned mines:

- Over 700,000 AML features nationwide
- 85% are hardrock mine features
- Remove health & safety hazards
- Cleanup soils, surface water & groundwater contamination
- Restore habitat
- Reopen public spaces
- Create jobs and economic opportunities for communities



Definitions – Hardrock Abandoned Mine

- Affecting lands and water resources on
 - Federal, State, Tribal, local & private
- Containing
 - One or more sites or features
- Resulting from:
 - Past exploration, development, mining, or processing of any solid minerals excluding coal & associated facilities
- Sites and features may include:
 - Disturbances resulting from prospecting for, or extraction of minerals (i.e., stockpiles, processing locations, shafts, adits, open pits or prospect pits / trenches, waste rock piles, and tailings piles)
 - Roads
 - Other areas of disturbance (i.e., highwalls)
 - Associated structures and equipment incidental to mining, mineral extraction, or mineral exploration activities (i.e., buildings, headframes, tools)



Use of Funds

Eligible activities include:

- Inventory
- Assessment of site conditions
- Addressing physical safety
- Decommissioning / Reclamation
- Responding to hazardous substances releases
- Remediation in accordance with the Tribal equivalent of CERCLA



Tribal AHMR Program

Grant Options:

(1) Inventory Grant Only

\$50,000 max

(2) Project Grant Only

\$200,000 max

(3) Combination Grant (inventory + project)

\$250,000 max

(\$50,000 inventory + up to \$200,000 projects)



Evaluation Criteria

How will proposals be evaluated?

- A panel will review the applications to evaluate the criteria addressed
- Merit Review Criteria from the grant announcement:
 1. Physical Safety Risks
 2. Accessibility
 3. Mitigation of Environmental Harm
 4. Contaminant Risks
 5. Water Resources Improvements
 6. Land Management Use Priorities



How to Apply

FY25 Grant Application Process

- Final Guidance ~ Fall 2025
- Applications Due – 90 days
- Applications to be submitted electronically to GrantSolutions
- Interior Business Center (IBC) will pull grant applications from GrantSolutions

Specific Questions from the DTLL

1. Is your Tribe interested in applying for an AHMR grant this funding cycle? If yes, what type? (*Inventory only, Project only, or a combination of Inventory and Project grants*)?
2. If known, what types of hardrock (non-coal) abandoned mines (*gold, silver, gravel, uranium, etc.*) and feature types (*shafts, adits, pits, etc.*) are located on your Tribal lands?
3. Does your Tribe have an abandoned hardrock mine inventory either in-progress or complete? (*If yes, please explain where it is housed, how you collected the data, and estimated percentage complete.*)
4. Do you have, or has you ever had, an abandoned hardrock mine program? (*If yes, please explain.*)

Specific Questions from the DTLL

5. Do you have the capacity to perform data collection activities, reclamation or remediation work on abandoned hardrock mines? *(If yes, please explain. If no, please describe what your Tribe would need to complete the work, such as increased staff, GPS units, vehicles, etc.)*

6. Please provide the contact information for the Tribal member either currently serving in an abandoned hardrock mine director role or who would assume that role on behalf of the Tribe and likely apply for the grant. *(Please provide a name, title if applicable, email, and phone number.)*

7. Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the AHMR Tribal Grants?



Written Comments

Comments due by: **August 11, 2025**

- By email: AHMRprogram@ios.doi.gov
- By mail:
 - USDO/EOPC
 - Attn: AHMR Program
 - One Denver Federal Center
 - Bldg. 46, Room 101
 - PO Box 25207
 - Lakewood, CO, 80225
- On your correspondence, please note:
 - (1) Your Tribal affiliation
 - (2) Include “**Tribal AHMR Grant Guidance**” in the header or subject line



Thank You!