

West Virginia Mine Drainage Task Force Symposium

May 5, 2026

Thomas Shope, Acting Deputy Director



WVMDTF: A Legacy of Leadership

A Community Driving Progress Since 1978



Aerial drone image of the Cheat River flowing through a narrow wooded gorge in the late afternoon towards Cheat Lake near Morgantown, WV.



Lanny E. Erdos, Director of OSM, Tom Shope, acting Deputy Director of OSM, and OSM staff join DOI Secretary Doug Burgum and West Virginia Governor Patrick Morrisey during the signing of the WV-120 Cooperative Agreement.

The Field Matters

Bringing the Appalachian Perspective to Washington



Improving How We Deliver

NEPA Alternative Arrangements/ Emergency Procedures Process

- EA and FONSI within 14 days
- EIS and ROD within 28 days
- Standards are 1 year for an EA and 2 years for an EIS/ROD

6 Mining Plan Expansions Approved

- Spring Creek Mine, Montana
- Bull Mts Mine No. 1, Montana
- Rosebud Mine Area F, Montana
- West Antelope Mine, Wyoming
- Black Butte Mine Pit 15 & 10, WY
- Freedom Mine, North Dakota

3 New Permits

- Hurricane Creek Mine in Tennessee
- Warrior Met Mine No. 4, Alabama
- Warrior Met Blue Creek No. 1, Alabama



Improving How We Deliver

AML Fee Based Grants

- OSMRE has distributed \$6.569 billion in AML fee-based grants to states and tribes from the collected fees.
- \$2.302 billion was transferred to United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Health and Retirement Funds,
- \$2.931 billion of the AML Fund remains unappropriated.

IIJA Grants

- 2021: \$11.293 billion in new funding was authorized to be appropriated for deposit into the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund.
 - \$500M Repurposed in FY 2026.
- FY 2025 IIJA Distributions = \$725 M

Supporting States: Funding, Flexibility, and Results

- WV Implementation of the STREAM Act



OSM

10 YEARS OF AMLER



Jobs Created and Sustained

27,827



Students Trained Annually

5,353



Miles of Stream Reclaimed

183.43



Miles of Trail

500.35



Miles of Utilities Installed

277.38



Acres Reclaimed

7,026.95



Households Improved

203,569



Annual Visitors to AMLER Sites

4,377,863



The graphic reflects data from 2016 through 2024.

Project Activity Overview

Report Hub

Project Overview

Funding Overview

Project Details

Project Map & Photo

Tabled and Ineligible

Project Status	Fiscal Year	State/Tribe
All	All	All

Clear Filters

Sort by Fiscal Year

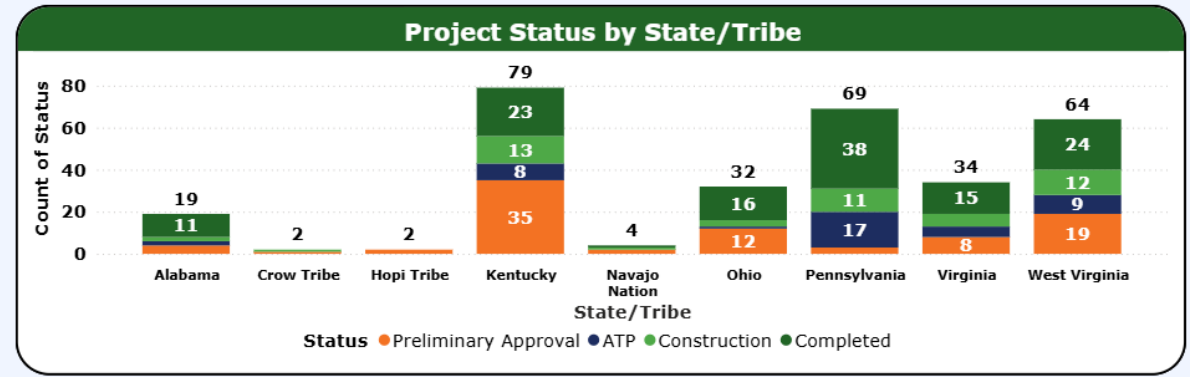
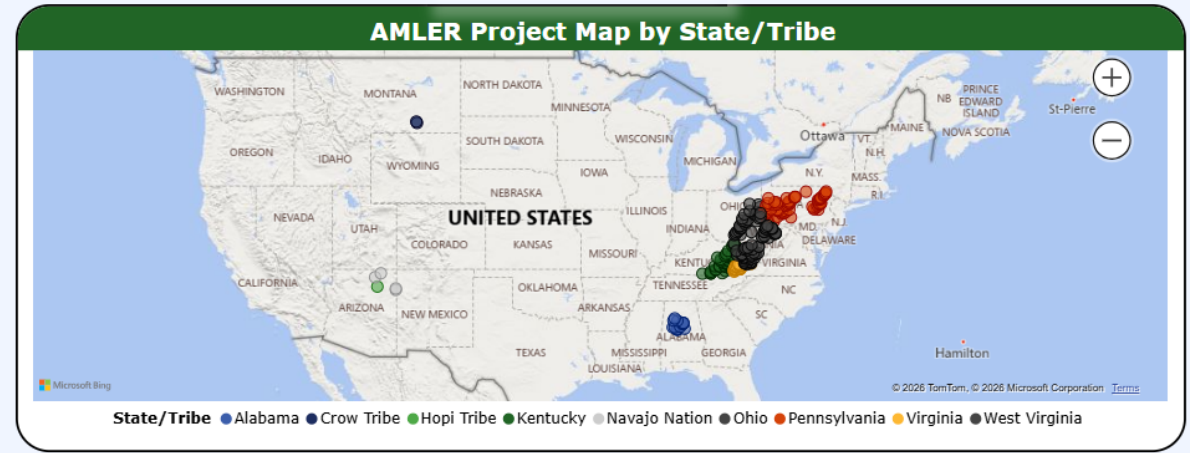
Sort by State/Tribe

Program Totals	
Project(s)	305
Fiscal Year(s)	9
State(s)/Tribe(s)	9

Project Categories	
Project Category	Amount
Point of Interest/Tourism	151
Production/Commercial	73
Infrastructure	55
Multi Purpose	15
Professional Training/Education	11

Projects by Status	
Preliminary Approval	86
ATP Issued	42
Construction Started	49
Completed	128

Project Metrics			
Jobs Created/Sustained	27,827	Students Trained Annually	5,353
Miles of Utilities	277.38	Acres Reclaimed	7,026.95
Annual Visitors	4,377,863	Households Improved	203,569
Miles of Trail	500.35	Miles of Stream Reclaimed	183.43



The Next Evolution of AMDTreat

A Tool Driving Smarter Decisions



Acid mine drainage entering
Dead Lake in Ohio.



Watershed Cooperative
Agreement Program



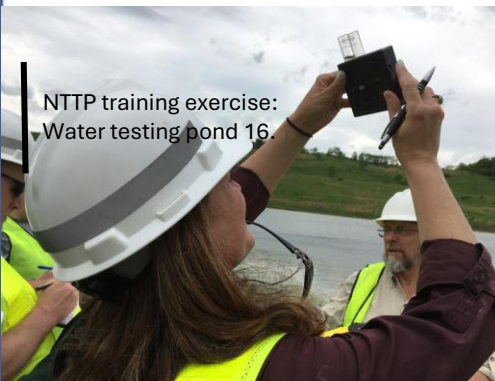
Applied Science

Evaluating the Next Generation of Solutions

E.O. 14154 – Unleashing American Energy

E.O. 14241 – Immediate Measures to Increase American Mineral Production

S.O. 3436 – Unlocking Critical & Strategic Minerals from Mine Waste



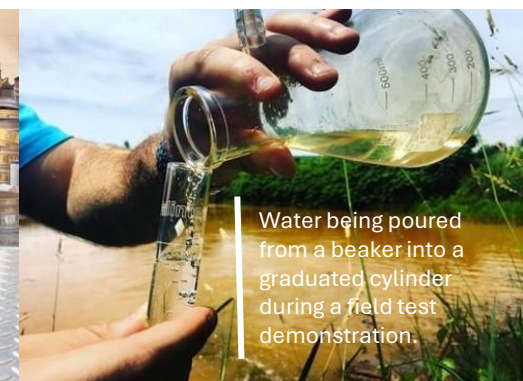
NTP training exercise:
Water testing pond 16.



Young plants growing in a controlled hydroponic setup as part of a lab research experiment in Applied Science.

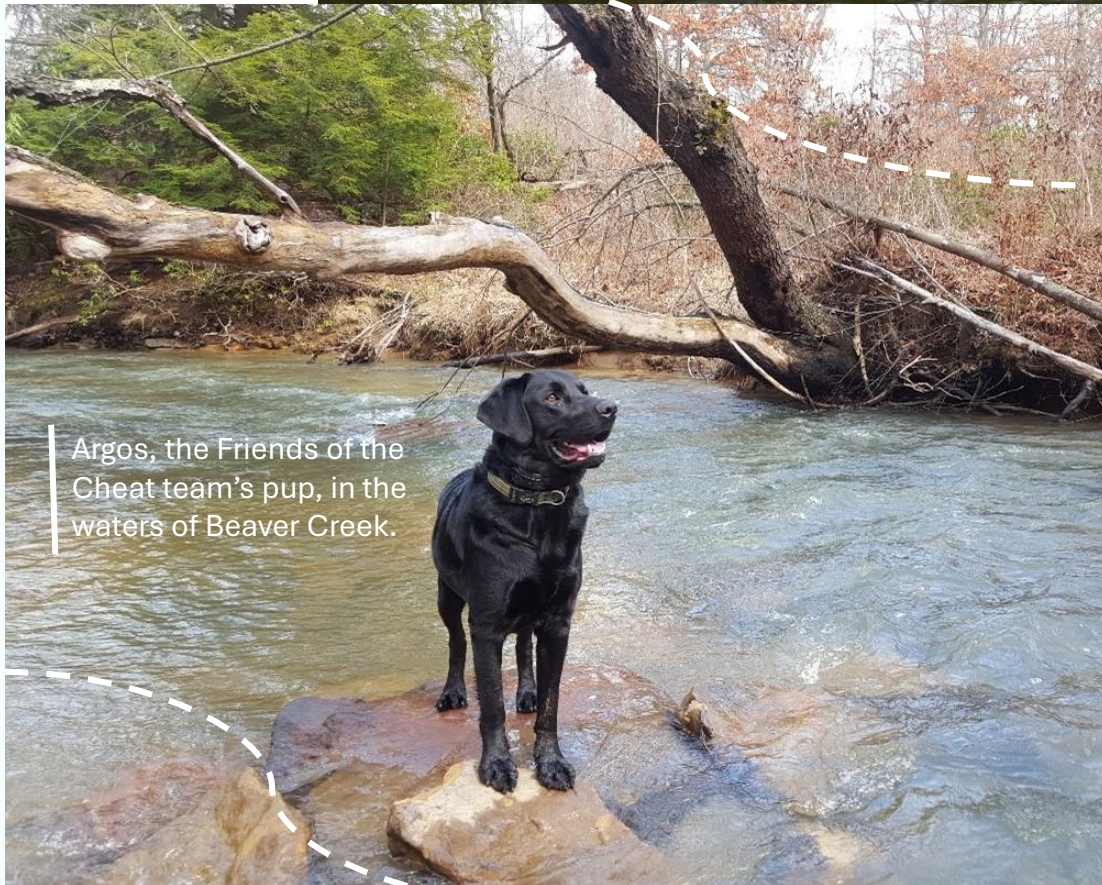


Mine Drainage Technology Initiative cooperative agreement research



Water being poured from a beaker into a graduated cylinder during a field test demonstration.

WCAP – Community Impact



Argos, the Friends of the Cheat team's pup, in the waters of Beaver Creek.



Fishermen along the Cheat River in West Virginia.



Workforce Training & Capacity

Investing in People and Communities





Lanny E. Erdos, Director of OSM, joined Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and ODNR Director Mary Mertz to celebrate the opening of two AMLER-funded recreation sites that strengthen connections to Ohio's Appalachian outdoors.



Freedom 250

Goal

Education the public on the role coal has played in American history as we celebrate America's 250th birthday.

Themes

- America Gives
- America Innovates
- America's Road Trip

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