



# OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT

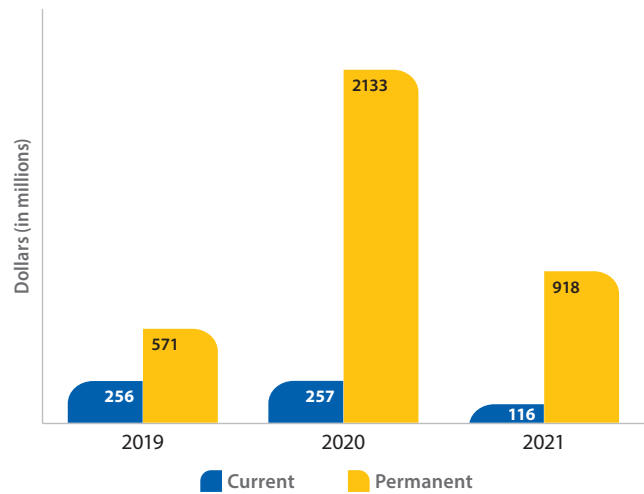
**Mission**—The mission of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is to ensure—through a nationwide regulatory program, in cooperation with the States and Tribes—that coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects communities and the environment during mining, ensures land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and mitigates the effects of past mining through the reclamation of abandoned mine lands.

**Budget Overview**—The 2021 budget request for OSMRE is \$116.2 million. The 2021 budget delivers OSMRE’s core mission requirements for oversight and supports State and Tribal programs to ensure effective, consistent, and high-quality regulatory and reclamation programs across the Nation. OSMRE estimates staffing will total 398 full-time equivalents in 2021.

**Regulation and Technology**—The 2021 budget request for Regulation and Technology, Title V of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) is \$93.1 million. The budget includes \$66.3 million for Environmental Protection programs. Within that, the 2021 budget includes \$43.1 million for State and Tribal regulatory grants. Other program funding supports State Program Evaluation and Federal Program operations, which regulate coal mining in States and for Tribes that do not have approved regulatory programs that fulfill OSMRE’s Title V obligations. The budget includes \$23.2 million to maintain and support those State, Federal, and Indian lands programs.

OSMRE’s statutory role is to promote and assist its partner States and Tribes in establishing a

## OSMRE Funding



stable regulatory environment for coal mining. The proposed level of regulatory grant funding provides for the efficient and effective operations of programs—at a level consistent with the anticipated obligations of State and Tribal regulatory programs—to account for the Nation’s demand for coal mine permitting and production.

The 2021 budget request includes \$13.3 million to support mission-focused Technology Development and Transfer activities. As mining and engineering information and technology continue to improve, OSMRE continues to provide States and Tribes with the most up-to-date information, technical training, technical assistance, and technology transfer. These programs help States and Tribes fulfill SMCRA’s requirements in the operation of their regulatory and reclamation programs and support advancements, such as electronic permitting and applied science solutions, specific to coal-mined



- The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement was created in 1977 when Congress enacted the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.
- OSMRE ensures coal mining operations are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner.
- The office requires land to be adequately reclaimed and restored to beneficial use—during and following the mining process—through regulation.
- OSMRE institutes nationwide programs to protect society and the environment from the potential adverse effects of surface coal mining operations.
- The office trains hundreds of State and Tribal professionals in a broad range of reclamation skills, such as reestablishing wildlife habitat.
- OSMRE planted or assisted in planting nearly 320,000 trees covering 380 acres in 2019. OSMRE has planted 2.7 million trees over the past 10 years.

sites. The request includes \$13.5 million for Financial Management and general program support to OSMRE operations.

As in prior years, the budget proposes to recover the cost of reviewing, administering, and enforcing permits for surface coal mining and reclamation in Federal programs and on Indian lands where OSMRE is the regulatory authority and encourages States to further pursue cost-recovery options. OSMRE expects to recover \$40,000 in permitting fees in 2021.

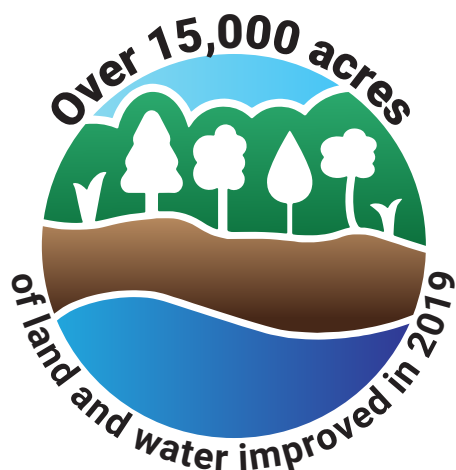
**Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation—** Under Title IV of SMCRA, effective State, Tribal, and Federal abandoned mine land programs help to ensure the expeditious return of lands mined before the enactment of SMCRA in 1977 to effective

post-mining land uses. OSMRE’s proposed budget fulfills that statutory requirement.

The 2021 budget request for the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund is \$23.1 million. That amount includes \$8.2 million for Environmental Restoration activities that focus on State and Federal programs, \$3.6 million for Technology Development and Transfer programs, and \$11.3 million to support Financial Management and general OSMRE program operations to fulfill OSMRE’s Title IV obligations in the reclamation of abandoned mine lands.

**Management Reforms—**The 2021 budget helps to advance several significant management reforms. The budget supports the Administration’s priority workforce goal to incentivize employee performance to better recognize high-performing employee contributions to mission achievement across the office. In 2021, the Department proposes to consolidate all agency ethics staffing and funding within the Departmental Ethics Office in the Office of the Solicitor. The 2021 budget therefore assumes a transfer of \$194,000 and 1 FTE associated with current office ethics activities. The budget also supports operations and maintenance of an enterprisewide grants management and tracking system, GrantSolutions.

**Fixed Costs—**Fixed costs of \$924,000 are fully funded in the request.



Number of land and water acres improved by AML reclamation during FY 2019



Students join the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, BLM, and OSMRE to plant sagebrush seedlings as part of the AML Native Plants Project.

**SUMMARY OF BUREAU APPROPRIATIONS**  
(all dollar amounts in thousands)

*Comparison of 2021 Request with 2020 Enacted*

|   | 2020 Enacted |                  | 2021 Request |                  | Change   |                   |
|---|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|----------|-------------------|
|   | FTE          | Amount           | FTE          | Amount           | FTE      | Amount            |
| <b>Current</b>  |              |                  |              |                  |          |                   |
| Regulation and Technology .....   | 298          | 117,768          | 298          | 93,102           | 0        | -24,666           |
| Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund .....   | 100          | 139,713          | 100          | 23,064           | 0        | -116,649          |
| Subtotal, Current .....   | 398          | 257,481          | 398          | 116,166          | 0        | -141,315          |
| <b>Permanent</b>  |              |                  |              |                  |          |                   |
| Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund .....   | 0            | 165,732          | 0            | 168,178          | 0        | +2,446            |
| Payments to States in Lieu of Coal Fee Receipts.....                          | 0            | 42,260           | 0            | 45,200           | 0        | +2,940            |
| Supplemental Payments to United Mine Workers of<br>America Health Plans ..... | 0            | 1,925,493        | 0            | 704,800          | 0        | -1,220,693        |
| Subtotal, Permanent .....   | 0            | 2,133,485        | 0            | 918,178          | 0        | -1,215,307        |
| <b>TOTAL, OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING<br/>RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT.....</b>   | <b>398</b>   | <b>2,390,966</b> | <b>398</b>   | <b>1,034,344</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>-1,356,622</b> |

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BUDGET CHANGES

*By Appropriation Activity/Subactivity*

### APPROPRIATION: Regulation and Technology

|   | 2019 Actual    | 2020 Enacted   | 2021 Request  | Change         |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Environmental Protection.....                       | 88,562         | 88,562         | 66,319        | -22,243        |
| Permit Fees .....                                   | 40             | 40             | 40            | 0              |
| <i>Offsetting Collections—Permit Fees.....</i>      | 0              | -40            | -40           | 0              |
| Technology, Development and Transfer .....          | 12,801         | 14,765         | 13,288        | -1,477         |
| Financial Management .....                          | 505            | 505            | 502           | -3             |
| Executive Direction and Administration.....         | 13,936         | 13,936         | 12,993        | -943           |
| Civil Penalties .....                               | 20             | 100            | 100           | 0              |
| <i>Offsetting Collections—Civil Penalties .....</i> | -20            | -100           | -100          | 0              |
| <b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....</b>                    | <b>115,844</b> | <b>117,768</b> | <b>93,102</b> | <b>-24,666</b> |

### *Detail of Budget Changes*

|   | 2021 Change<br>from<br>2020 Enacted |   | 2021 Change<br>from<br>2020 Enacted |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....               | -24,666                             | Training.....                             | +56                                 |
| Regulation and Technology .....         | -24,666                             | Fixed Costs.....                          | +56                                 |
| Environmental Protection .....          | -22,243                             | Technology Transfer.....                  | -1,327                              |
| State and Tribal Funding.....           | -25,487                             | Applied Science Projects.....             | -470                                |
| Regulatory Grant Funding.....           | -25,487                             | GeoMine/AMDTreat .....                    | -889                                |
| State Program Evaluation.....           | +238                                | Fixed Costs.....                          | +32                                 |
| Fixed Costs.....                        | +238                                | Financial Management .....                | -3                                  |
| Federal Programs.....                   | +1,464                              | Revenue Management .....                  | -6                                  |
| Improve Mine Plan Review                |                                     | Operational Efficiencies.....             | -12                                 |
| Processes.....                          | +1,373                              | Fixed Costs.....                          | +6                                  |
| Fixed Costs.....                        | +91                                 | Grants Financial Management.....          | +3                                  |
| Federal Lands.....                      | +29                                 | Fixed Costs.....                          | +3                                  |
| Fixed Costs.....                        | +29                                 | Executive Direction and Administration .. | -943                                |
| Indian Lands .....                      | +493                                | Executive Direction .....                 | -84                                 |
| Improve Mine Plan Review                |                                     | Transfer Ethics Program to Solicitor ..   | -128                                |
| Processes.....                          | +449                                | Fixed Costs.....                          | +44                                 |
| Fixed Costs.....                        | +44                                 | Administrative Support.....               | +88                                 |
| Program Development and                 |                                     | Fixed Costs.....                          | +88                                 |
| Maintenance .....                       | +1,020                              | General Services.....                     | -947                                |
| GrantSolutions Enterprise System .....  | +144                                | General Program Activities .....          | -781                                |
| Improve Mine Plan Review                |                                     | Fixed Costs.....                          | -166                                |
| Processes.....                          | +773                                |   |                                     |
| Fixed Costs.....                        | +103                                | Subtotals for Changes Across Multiple     |                                     |
| Technology, Development and Transfer... | -1,477                              | Subactivities                             |                                     |
| Technical Assistance.....               | -206                                | Fixed Costs .....                         | [+709]                              |
| Coal Information Management             |                                     | Improve Mine Plan Review Processes.....   | [+2,595]                            |
| System.....                             | -347                                |   |                                     |
| Fixed Costs.....                        | +141                                |   |                                     |

**APPROPRIATION: Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund**

|   | 2019 Actual    | 2020 Enacted   | 2021 Request  | Change          |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Environmental Restoration.....              | 124,480        | 124,480        | 8,181         | -116,299        |
| Technology, Development and Transfer .....  | 3,544          | 3,576          | 3,608         | +32             |
| Financial Management .....                  | 5,182          | 5,191          | 5,277         | +86             |
| Executive Direction and Administration..... | 6,466          | 6,466          | 5,998         | -468            |
| <b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION .....</b>            | <b>139,672</b> | <b>139,713</b> | <b>23,064</b> | <b>-116,649</b> |

*Detail of Budget Changes*

|   | 2021 Change<br>from<br>2020 Enacted |   | 2021 Change<br>from<br>2020 Enacted |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>TOTAL APPROPRIATION</b>              | <b>-116,649</b>                     | Training.....                             | +20                                 |
| Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund .....   | -116,649                            | Fixed Costs.....                          | +20                                 |
| Environmental Restoration.....          | -116,299                            | Technology Transfer.....                  | +3                                  |
| State Program Evaluation.....           | +45                                 | Fixed Costs.....                          | +3                                  |
| Fixed Costs.....                        | +45                                 | Financial Management .....                | +86                                 |
| Federal Reclamation Programs—           |                                     | Fee Compliance.....                       | +83                                 |
| Projects .....                          | -1,548                              | Fixed Costs.....                          | +83                                 |
| Watershed Cooperative Agreement         |                                     | Grants Financial Management.....          | +3                                  |
| Program.....                            | -1,548                              | Fixed Costs.....                          | +3                                  |
| Federal Reclamation Programs—           |                                     | Executive Direction and Administration .. | -468                                |
| Operations .....                        | +15                                 | Executive Direction .....                 | -45                                 |
| Fixed Costs.....                        | +15                                 | Transfer Ethics Program to Solicitor..    | -66                                 |
| Program Development and                 |                                     | Fixed Costs.....                          | +21                                 |
| Maintenance .....                       | +189                                | Administrative Support.....               | +42                                 |
| GrantSolutions Enterprise System .....  | +144                                | Fixed Costs.....                          | +42                                 |
| Fixed Costs.....                        | +45                                 | General Services.....                     | -465                                |
| AML Economic Development Grants ...     | -115,000                            | General Program Activities.....           | -383                                |
| AML Economic Development                |                                     | Fixed Costs.....                          | -82                                 |
| Grants .....                            | -115,000                            |   |                                     |
| Technology, Development and Transfer... | +32                                 | Subtotals for Changes Across Multiple     |                                     |
| Technical Assistance.....               | +9                                  | Subactivities                             |                                     |
| Coal Information Management             |                                     | Fixed Costs .....                         | [+215]                              |
| System.....                             | -11                                 |   |                                     |
| Fixed Costs.....                        | +20                                 |   |                                     |