

Reclaiming Iowa's Surface Mine Land: PROGRAM OVERVIEW

What is the Iowa Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Program?

The Iowa Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program strives to return mined land back to its pre-mining condition using federal dollars from active coal mining across the country. Iowa's abandoned mine sites are surface coal mines that were stripped of their topsoil and overburden to expose the underlying coal. Mining operations that ceased before 1977 had no provisions to reclaim the now heavily disturbed land. There are 300+ abandoned coal mines totaling over 13,000 acres in the AML inventory, located mostly in the southeastern part of the state.



“Just like we don’t want erosion off our farm fields, we don’t want erosion off mine sites. We need to protect and use our resources wisely—whether that is a soil resource or a mineral resource.”

-Susan Kozak, Mines & Minerals Bureau Chief



Want more?

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