



Montana Abandoned Mine Lands Program



Autumn Coleman
AML Program Manager

Bill Snoddy
AML Project Manager



What We Do

A Federally funded section of the Department of Environmental Quality tasked to reclaim pre 1977 abandoned coal mines located on private land. Also allowed to reclaim hardrock mines if all coal issues are resolved.

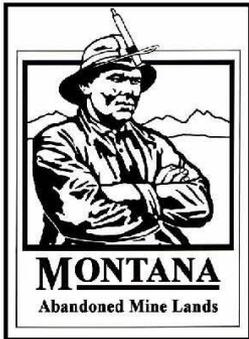
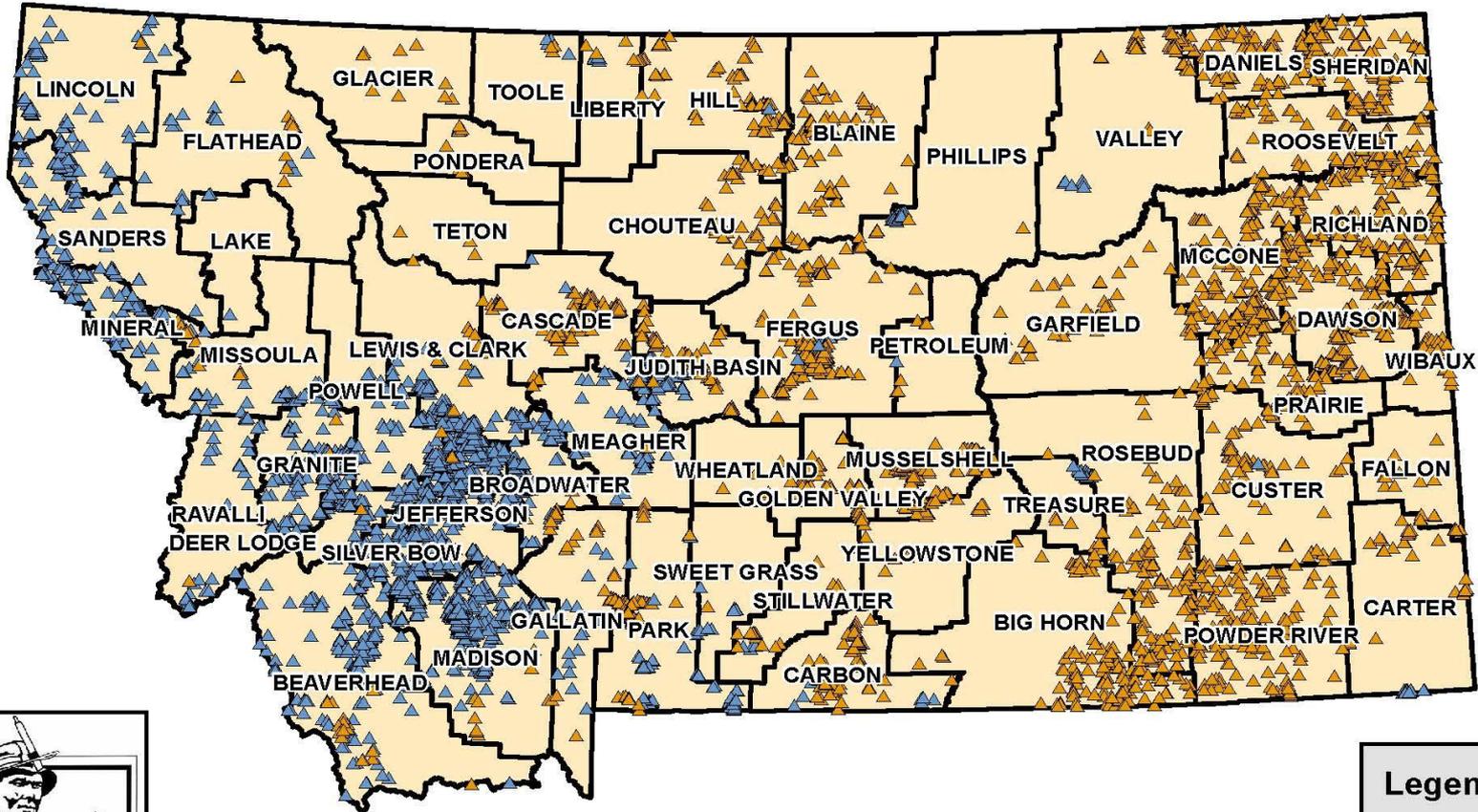




Problems We Face



Abandoned Mine Lands - Mine Sites

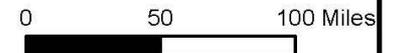


Date: 8/17/2017



Legend

- ▲ Coal
- ▲ Hardrock
- COUNTIES





Noteworthy AML Projects



Sand Coulee Water Supply
Cascade County



McLaren Tailings
Park County



Settlers Stripping Coal
Fire
Treasure County



Sand Coulee Water System



- Two New Supply Wells
- 8,900 Feet of New Mains
- 4,000 Feet of Service Lines
- 75 Home Hookups



- New Well House
- 150,000-Gallon Storage Tank
- 22 Fire Hydrants
- New Water Rights

Total Cost: \$2.8 Million



McLaren Tailings



- Seven Year Project
- One half million tons of wet tailings
- Largest Source of Pollution into YNP

- Averted a tailings dam failure
- Restored Soda Butte Creek
- Will be the First Stream “Delisted” in Montana History

Total Cost: \$24.5 Million



Settler's Stripping Coal Fire



- **Burning for About 80 Years**
- **Near 500KV Transmission Lines**
- **Potential for starting Wildfires**

- **Five Acres Reclaimed**
- **Danger of Wildfires Removed**
- **Wildlife and Cattle Habitat**

Total Cost: \$577,200



Current Projects



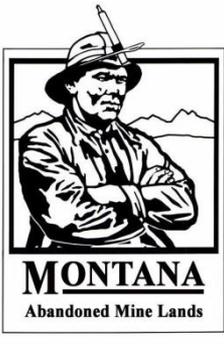
Belt Water
Treatment



Roundup Area
Mines



Wibaux County
Mines



Wibaux County Mines

Belt Water Treatment

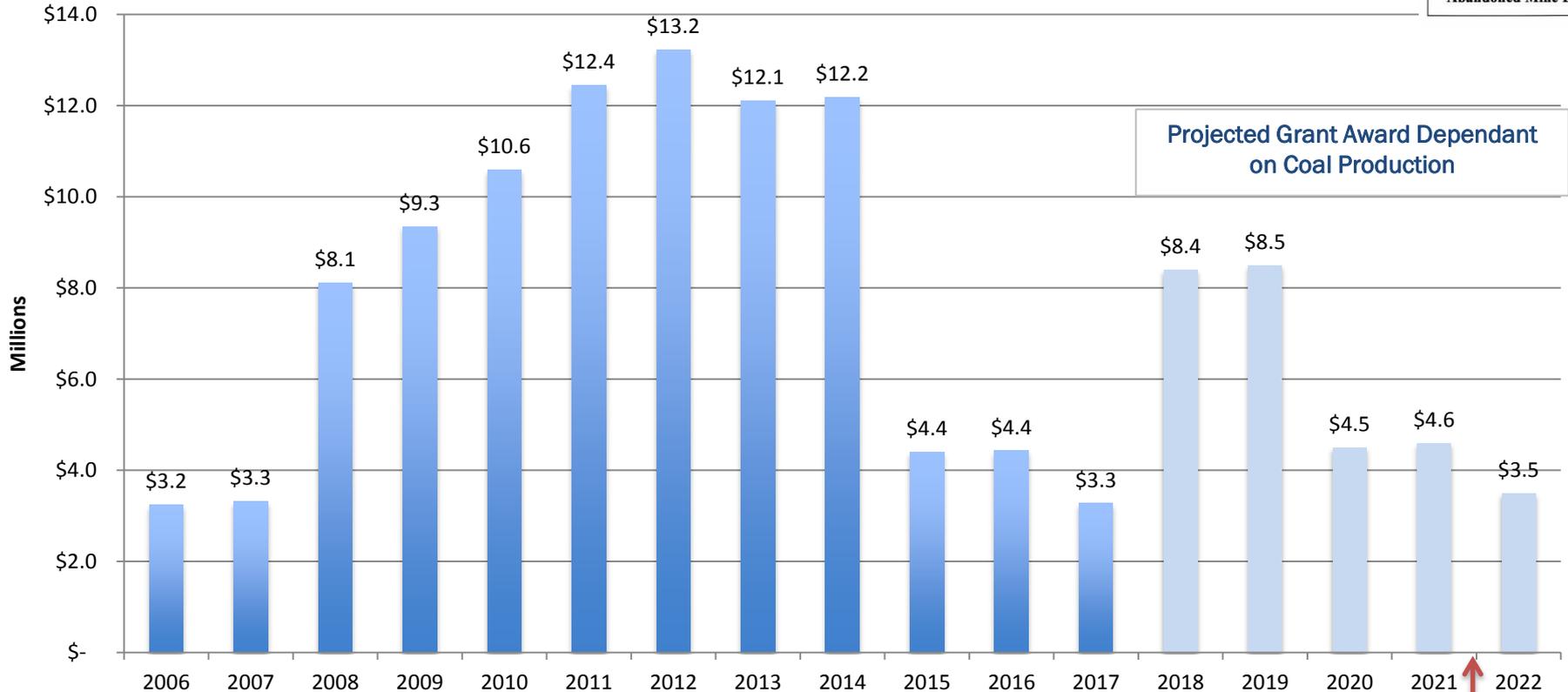


Jeffries Mine

Montana AML Funding



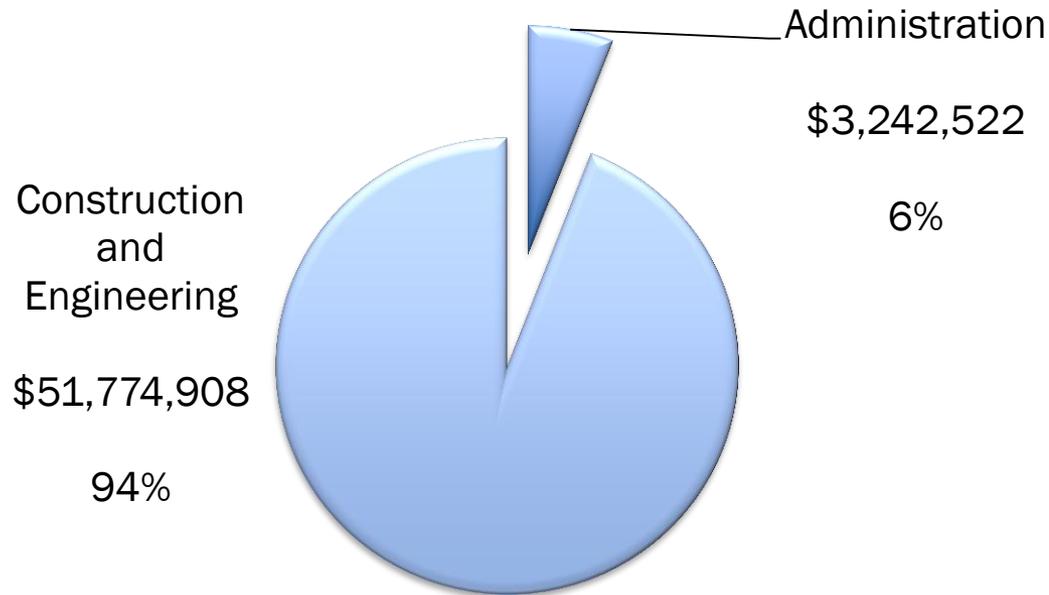
OSM Grants Awarded by Year (2006 - 2022)



THE END

Montana AML Funding

Montana AML Grant 2012 - 2016





Is This The End of AML?

If the fee collection is not reauthorized, abandoned coal mine reclamation will essentially end in Montana in 2022.

Federal campaign to reauthorize AML.

Nationwide effort involving counties, watershed groups and State AML Programs.



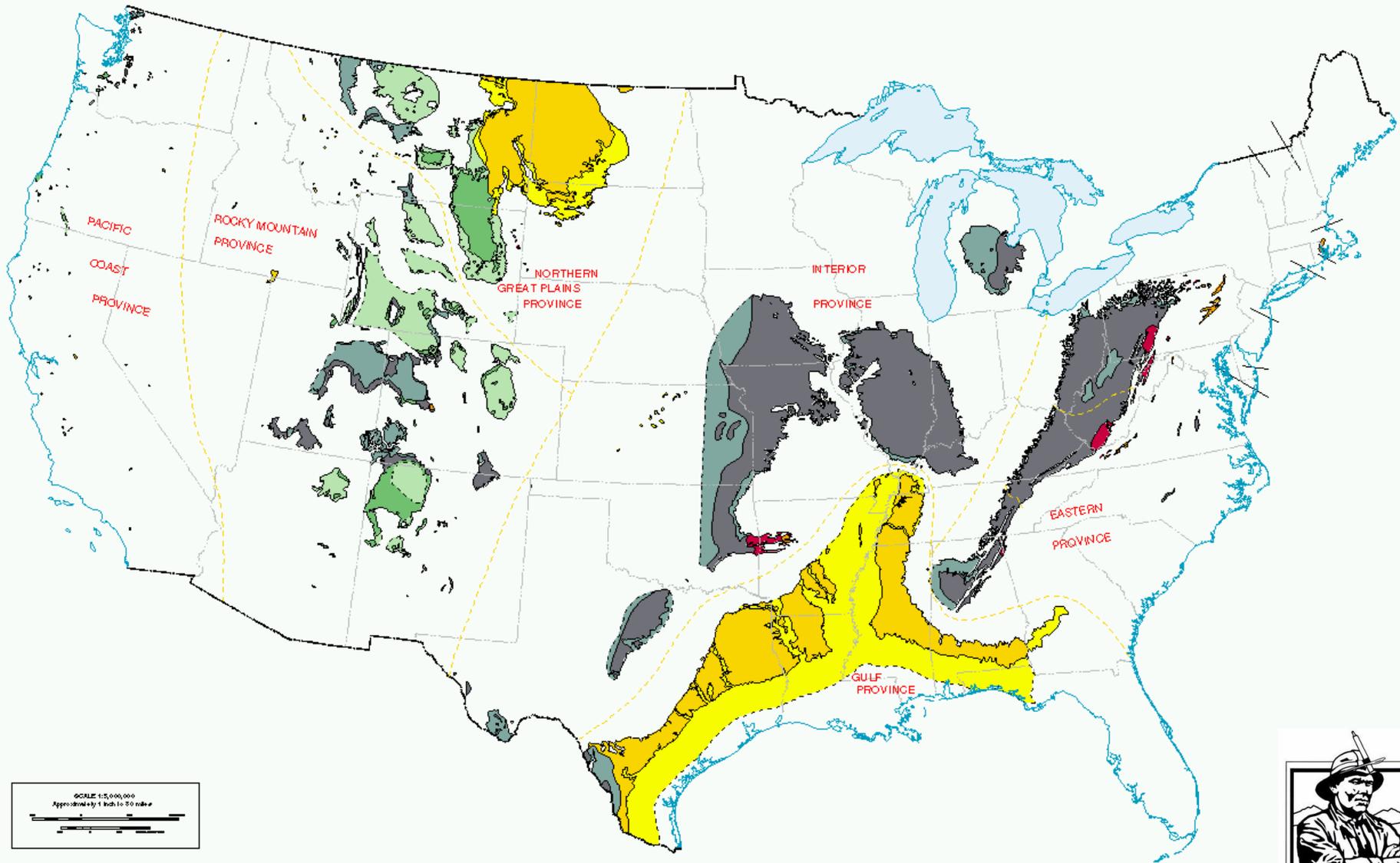


Reauthorization

Reauthorization is NOT simple for Montana!

- **Montana is a Certified State.**
- **Certified State/Tribe funding in jeopardy.**
- **Western States produce over 60% of the coal in the US.**
- **Eastern States have the largest AML problem.**

Coal Regions in the US





What Can Be Done?



"The problem with abandoned mines is that they are everyone's problem but nobody's responsibility."