Overview of Abandoned Mine Lands in the NPS
Federal Land Manager
- 417 Units in the National Park System
- > 331 million visitors annually
- CERCLA Authority

NPS Organic Act
- “...unimpaired for future generations”
- Lands managed in perpetuity (50-100 year viewshed)
- Must address safety, human health & ecological risk
- High cleanup standard
Contaminated Sites Defined

“...any land managed by, or natural resource under the stewardship or trusteeship of, DOI that is adversely affected by a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, petroleum, pollutant, or contaminant...[such sites include] Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS), abandoned mine lands (AMLs)...industrial sites...leaking fuel tanks, firing ranges, landfills, and sites with injuries to natural resources.” – USDOI, 1/18/2017
NPS Contaminated Sites “Inventory”

Known Contaminated Sites include:

- Firing Ranges (96)
- Fuel Tanks (57)
- Former Industrial Sites (43)
- Landfills (67)
- Former Mining and Milling Operations (58+)

*Located in 70% of parks!
NPS AML “Inventory”

Total AML Sites: 3,421
- Addressed to date: ~ 900
- Awaiting Action:
  - Physical Safety Only: 1,018
  - Likely Contaminant Issues: 357
AML Challenges

Limited Resources
- Funding and small bench of cleanup practitioners
- Incomplete inventory (definitions, IT, new acquisitions)

Looking for Efficiencies
- Cross-programmatic cooperation, coordination (clear Rs&Rs)
- Resource sharing (staff, common databases, tools, $)

Raising Agency Awareness (Animas River)
- AMLs are a subset of Agency CS Inventory
- Strategic prioritization from leadership
- Best practices, guidance, policy (CSPortal)
- Creative funding mechanisms (CR, partnering, sponsorships)
A Few Examples of NPS AML Sites
Clark Fork River Superfund Site
4 NPL Sites, 18 OUs
Exposed mine tailings = ‘slickens’
As, Cu, Cd, Pb, Zn, Acidic Soils
2008 Settlement
~ $179 million
Palmerton Zinc Pile NPL Site
Palmerton, PA
Blue Mountain Operable Unit
Cd, Pb, Zn
Appalachian National Scenic Trail
CERCLA Remedy: Re-establish Eastern hardwood forest on AT
Morning Star Mine
Mojave National Preserve, CA
7 acres of tailings
As, Cu, Cd, Pb, Zn, AMD
Cabin Creek
Kennecott Mine
National Historic Landmark
Wrangell-St. Elias NPP, AK
Power Plant
As, Pb, Asbestos, PAHs
Current and Future Strategies
Looking Ahead

1. Establish baseline information: Complete Inventory

2. Establish Clear Governance: All Sites addressed in standard process

3. Align Colors of Money

4. Establish Strategic Prioritization

5. Move site strategy in new directions (cost recovery, insurance, partnerships, sponsors)

*All consistent with CSI recommendations*
Thank You!
“...The service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations hereinafter specified by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations...”