



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

## Red Devil Mine Remediation

Category: Abandoned Wells

**BLM**  
Alaska

### Ongoing Cleanup Gets a Boost in the Far North



About 250 miles northwest of Anchorage, on the banks of the Kuskokwim River, sits the Red Devil Mine, an abandoned mine site where from 1933 until 1971, cinnabar was mined and mercury extracted from the ore.

The BLM is conducting two ARRA-funded projects at the site. One involves the investigation of a fuel spill at the mine and the second is to remediate a large volume of petroleum-contaminated soil. The goal is to remove the threat of harm from oil contamination to salmon and freshwater fish resources in the river and help bring the abandoned mine site into compliance with State of Alaska and federal environmental laws and regulations.

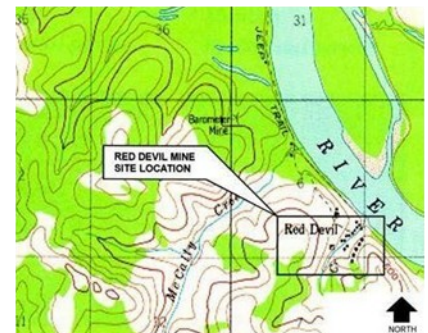
ARRA contracts so far total about \$1.3 million to Marsh Creek, LLC for the fuel spill investigation, contaminated soil remediation, and a temporary bridge across Red Devil Creek to allow heavy equipment access to the project site.



It is expected that all field work will be completed by September 30, 2010, with a final report completed by December 15, 2010.

These two ARRA projects are among a number of clean-up efforts at the site. The BLM is working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, in coordination with Alaska Natives,

to investigate contamination and conduct clean-ups. Kuskokwim River is an important source for salmon and other fish used by Native Alaskans. This site is a priority selection for conveyance to Alaska Native Corporations under authority of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The land cannot be conveyed until cleanup is complete.



The projects at the site help support local communities and businesses. Field crews stay at the locally-owned Red Devil Lodge in the small community of Red Devil Village; population about 35. Local sources also provide heavy equipment and labor. Freight and environmental engineering companies are providing services within Alaska. The temporary bridge is made from American Steel by a manufacturer in Colorado.

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U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

