

## Environmental Stewardship Award, presented by Bartley Kleven

This award honors an active AMA member (whether an individual or organization) who demonstrates environmental leadership. The award recognizes best management practices in environmental protection or restoration associated with a mining operation or project. Demonstration of new approaches in design, construction, operation, or reclamation are encouraged.

This person received four nominations for the award. Some language from his nomination includes:

While I was new to Alaska and anxious to kickstart my career, he was (and still is) a mentor that has been instrumental in my professional growth. Over the last five years, he has shown tremendous patience, regularly sharing his knowledge and making a sincere effort to provide me with opportunities to expand my career in the environmental sector of Alaska's mining industry. All my growth is either a direct result of his patience and mentorship, or from other professional connections that he has helped foster.



His affinity for Alaska's unique natural environment translates directly to his work as an environmental professional in the mining industry. One of my many great memories of working with him was captured while walking the Snow Gulch project together, a pilot mitigation effort meant to confirm Donlin Gold's capabilities of expanding aquatic habitat near the mine site in an area with historic placer mining

operations. It was an incredible experience seeing him take so much pride as he watched a “palmated sandpiper” explore the newly-created habitat he helped develop.

Another nominator wrote: Simply put, he knew what had to be done and directed the team of Donlin Gold staff and contractors working together to achieve the goal of maximizing productive habitat generation and salmon and resident fish use. The Snow Gulch project provides a proven approach for Donlin Gold’s future mitigation work in Crooked Creek as well as being a first of its kind effort in the Kuskokwim region that can guide restoration.

Enric Fernandez was the driver for the Snow Gulch mitigation that is a model for how mining projects demonstrate strong environmental stewardship and is highly deserving of AMA’s recognition.