Environmental Stewardship Award

Valdez Creek Mining, LLC

The Environmental Stewardship Award honors an active AMA member whose environmental leadership demonstrates outstanding care for Alaska's land through responsible practices, restoration, reclamation, or innovative approaches to environmental protection.

The Alaska Miners Association is proud to recognize Valdez Creek Mining, LLC with the 2026 Environmental Stewardship Award for its substantial cleanup of legacy mining waste and its commitment to caring for Alaska's land.

The company removed 230 tons of solid waste and derelict equipment left by previous operators in the Valdez and White creek areas. By taking on an inherited burden, the team made a measurable improvement to a historic mining landscape and demonstrated how miners' skills, equipment, and determination can support environmental restoration.

This accomplishment also earned national recognition through the Bureau of Land Management's 2026 Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award. That honor recognizes sustained or repeated success by small operators in meeting or exceeding government requirements with minimal oversight.

The cleanup is especially meaningful because the waste was left by earlier operators, rather than generated by the company's own work.

Valdez Creek Mining's work offers a clear example of environmental stewardship in practice: identifying a need, committing resources, and completing a cleanup with lasting benefits. Its achievement reflects well on Alaska's mining community and provides an example for other operators seeking opportunities to improve the places where they work. Congratulations to the Valdez Creek Mining team, and thank you for putting your commitment to responsible mining into action.

