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## AMA Efforts and Activities 2022-2023

### What is AMA Doing for You?

#### AMA's Work on Federal Issues

- Compilation of AMA Issues of Concern [document](#) to share favorable federal mining policies
- DOI Interagency workgroup on hardrock mining reform: Interagency working group rolled out May 10, on the anniversary of General Mining Law, released RFI with principle questions to guide their decision making on changes. Self-nominated AMA for specific Alaska focus on Alaska conditions, placer mining, ANCSA, more. Ongoing work with NMA and AEMA for nationwide technical support to bolster Alaska specific comments. Followed and supported industry testimony and supplied Delegation with Alaska-specific information to highlight. Coordinated with State of Alaska agencies in various participation opportunities. Participated in nationwide industry meeting in Spokane with IWG. Ultimately submitted 19-page [letter](#) on IWG RFI. Continue to monitor as continued “questions” are being rolled out of DOI with opportunities to provide supplemental comments. Continuing to work with national organizations to identify ways to work with IWG and Delegation(s) to assist as the IWG reports to Congress on actions.
- Monitoring EPA 404c veto at Pebble – EPA released Proposed Determination at Pebble to advance to Clean Water Act section 404c veto. Immediate action included diverse group of Alaska trade organizations traveling to Washington DC to impress to our Senators that their statements did not mirror their same responses when EPA did the same in 2014, to highlight that Pebble’s permit is still awaiting an appeal process therefore this remains a preemptive decision, and a request to extend the very short comment period. Orchestrated follow up thank you messages from key AMA members to the non-mining organizations staff and boards. Comment extension achieved; thank you communications to CODEL and Governor Dunleavy. Submitted lengthy and technical [letter](#). Issued [Press Release](#) in early December 2022 following EPA’s announcement to move forward with preemptive veto of project.
- Ambler Access SEIS: BLM rolled back its joint ROD with Corps and NPS authorizing Ambler Road citing lack of local and tribal engagement (on same day Admin rolled out the “we need more domestic mineral sources” strategy). Litigation; DOI remanded permit back for SEIS, more consultations. Coordinated multi-industry trade group [Press Release](#) On September 20, BLM initiated a 45-day scoping period for a supplemental EIS. Coordinated [Action Alert](#) and comments for SEIS for submittal in November.
- Tongass National Forest exemption of Roadless Rule: USDA proposed rule repealing Tongass Roadless Exemption and determination of adequacy of 2020 NEPA FEIS to support reimpositions of Roadless Rule in July; review of Administrative change to the Tongass Forest Plan. “Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy,” meeting with Secretary Vilsack, Senators Murkowski and Sullivan. Coordination of multi group [letter](#) echoing Senator Murkowski and former DNR Commissioner Feige requesting mineral studies to understand economic impact of imposition of Roadless Rule, anticipating Roadless Rule action in November. Assembling workgroup with DOT Commissioner Anderson to discuss road building under SAFETYLU law that supersedes regulation, meeting during convention. Anticipating Roadless Rule action.
- Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS): Sackett vs EPA at U.S. Supreme Court following and rulemaking expected at EOY 2022 or early 2023, joined in multi-association [Amicus Brief](#). WOTUS/NWPR repeal and replace actions: second court decision vacating entire NWPR, stop of implementation from agencies and review. Helped to plan and participated in WOTUS roundtable in Anchorage with EPA and USACE headquarters

and Alaska business community, State of Alaska. Following roundtable in Alaska, working with U.S. Chamber and others to connect Alaska resource agencies with federal policymakers to highlight the Alaska specifics and legal precedents that should be guiding decision making. Monitored Regional Roundtables held elsewhere. AMA “Step One” of rulemaking comments [here](#) Workgroup to assess compensatory mitigation and other USACE policy changes; coordinated AMA/agency listening session. Coordinated multi-association [Press Release](#) following December 30 release of pre-publication of Final Rule.

- Notice of Intent to Prepare EIS for ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals comment [letter](#)
- Minerals Security Partnership: This summer, Department of State announced the MSP, to strengthen the supply chains of friendly and neighboring countries. The Administration is elevating this above permitting domestic mineral sources which has generated significant attention from bipartisan members of Congress and the media. Worked with National Mining to develop strong Alaska-specific talking points as this has resulted in major media attention, including [feature](#) in Alaska Business Monthly timed with Convention.
- Submitted [comments](#) in support of Stibnite Gold Project in Idaho, proposed to restore fish habitat
- “Resource Roundtable” with Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chair Senator Joe Manchin held in Alaska with Senator Murkowski and State of Alaska.
- Reviewing government-to-government consultation on Nationwide permits
- Reviewing BLM Habitat Connectivity policy
- Following White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council
- Review of EPA/DEC interaction on fish consumption rates into Water Quality Standards
- Coordination on new BLM leadership: hosting new State Director at AMA luncheon
- Review of Mendenhall Glacier Mineral Withdrawal
- Advertising BLM-RAC open positions
- Evaluation of Grijalva and Heinrich bills to amend Mining Law of 1872
- Both as part of IWG and separate, extensive work on Good Samaritan legislation and issue analysis.
- Review of unfavorable decision on Rosemont Copper Mine appeal to CBD vs USFWS; in 9<sup>th</sup> circuit that ignores 100+ years of legal precedent and misconstrued the mining law to rule on how surface rights can and cannot be used to develop.
- Participation in NMA call on DoD funding under Defense Production Act to incentivize mineral investment, followup discussions on separation of agency missions between DoD and Department of Energy to the DOI IWG referenced above
- Analysis of West Virginia vs EPA and its impact on EPA’s authority to issue policy.
- Cosponsored Congressional Forum for Special Election Primary
- Willow Project DEIS coordination with other industries to comment and focus on process
- Multi-trade group meeting with Jake Tyner, new mining lead for Senator Dan Sullivan
- AMA, RDC, ARE meeting with Department of Energy in advance of Secretary visit to highlight mining policy as DOE pursues its goals
- America the Beautiful Atlas (30x30), continued monitoring, new grant challenge and “Rural Playbook.” Extensive [comments](#) and multi trade organization [letter](#) on America the Beautiful Atlas (30x30), continued monitoring
- CEQ Phase 1 NEPA regulations: rollback of Trump-era reforms, introduction of return to Obama NEPA regs, connection between major infrastructure package and the inability to permit,
- Evaluating Memo giving BLM authority to require compensatory mitigation
- Biennial monitoring notice for the 2020 Chugach Management plan
- Supreme court reinstatement of CWA Section 401 rule; EPA proposal to expand authority to tribes

- NMA ESG meetings on community relations efforts, achieving social license, strategies to work with communities and more
- Rescission of USFWS and NMFS definition of Critical Habitat
- Ongoing monitoring of Manh Choh project trucking plan and Interior Alaska conversations
- Work on Toxics Release Inventory with NMA, Alaska DEC
- Monitoring of Senate ENR hearing on domestic supply chains
- Reviewing Spruce Beetle scoping process for Chugach National Forest
- Review of final ROD for Kensington Mine expansion
- Review of State of Washington water quality standards changes instituted by EPA
- Supreme court reinstatement of CWA Section 4012 rule
- NMA ESG meetings on community relations efforts, achieving social license, strategies to work with communities and more
- Reviewing Spruce Beetle scoping process for Chugach National Forest and Administrative change
- Infrastructure bill [op-ed](#) and outreach with sister organizations
- Repeal of 2020 Revisions to NEPA regulations, US Fish and Wildlife definition of habitat in ESA, Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- National Mining Association Minerals Policy Task Force, Government Affairs, and Environment Committee and subcommittee meetings
- American Exploration & Mining Association Environment Committee meetings

### AMA's Work on State Issues

- Compilation of AMA State Issues of Concern [document](#) to share favorable state mining policies
- AMA State Oversight Committee regular monitoring of bills weekly throughout session
- Mineral Tenure regulations finalized: after many years, and final prioritization by Governor's office and DNR, AMA workgroup approved a final set of post SB155-regulations to be finalized.
- Meetings with DNR Leadership on Instream Flow Reservations, management in the interim and examining regulatory overhaul. AMA and CAP workgroup to address longstanding needed policy changes. DNR addressing long-standing appeals.
- AMA/CAP candidate briefings for 51 bipartisan candidates in Fairbanks, Mat-Su, Anchorage, and virtual.
- Internal discussion, Committee evaluation and recommendation to Executive Committee for AMA's [Position](#) on Constitutional Convention and membership communication.
- AMA/CAP presentations to [House](#) and [Senate](#) Resources Committees during session, pre-meetings beforehand and follow-up on issues raised
- Funding for RCRA and 404 primacy: work to support budget authorizations until very end; Extensive strategy for funding for RCRA and 404 primacy, eleventh hour advocacy resulting in RCRA funding and \$1m in 404 study
- Tier 3 waters bill – no movement in unfavorable House
- Initiative reform bill – no movement in either body
- Review of strategic minerals bill proposed by Rep. Fields
- Monitored HB271, bill to overhaul AIDEA
- Followed HB167 gold and silver as legal tender – numismatic coins
- Business Coalition letter to Legislature on budget and AMA priorities
- Organized ranked choice voting educational webinars to educate how to use ballot in special, primary, and general election
- Coordination of Governor Dunleavy/DEC/DNR Commissioners at AEMA Annual Meeting to put Alaska on national stage

- Creation of Click-to-comment for State of Alaska Ambler Exclusive Easement and Site Specific Plan
- [Comments](#) on public easements at Donlin Project site
- Continued orchestrating comments and education on mining as pertains to West-Susitna Access Project in Mat-Su Borough including meetings with Borough Assemblymen, Borough staff, and commenting in public engagement process, promote new Friends of the West-Su group, monitor the multiple opposition groups being created to fight access
- Transition between Governor's Chiefs of Staff, introductory meetings and briefings
- Tracking Susitna Rivers RMP
- [Letter](#) to DEC encouraging regulation be followed on Palmer Waste Management Permit
- Review of DNR charging Teck for gravel to use in road building on its mining claims
- Discussions with DEC on water quality standards changes
- Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Review of Administration's "Office of Energy Innovation"
- UA Minerals Conference Planning Committee, participation and presentation, ongoing discussion about implementing findings and outreach on federal level
- Jonesville Moose Range comment period, submitted [letter](#) to DNR
- Evaluation of AO 266 on Departments' inability to collaborate with regulated community once public notice happens
- Alaska Sustainability Conference attendance and outreach
- Review of submerged lands bill (Sturgeon bill)
- Working to educate among Mental Health Trust lands decisions for mining activity
- Meeting with State of Alaska Statehood defense representatives
- Meeting with State/Business Council on Sustainable Energy
- Meeting with Doyon on Redistricting
- Alaska Minerals Commission assistance
- Discussions with Doyon on Wood Bison ESA implications

### Membership:

- Organization of weekly offsetting branch and Zoom meetings with specific regional or statewide focuses, attracting well over 100 participants at each. Planning to keep this system for foreseeable future as it brings all branches and members together
- Assistance to branches with in-person meetings: email lists, venue assistance, speakers, etc.
- Management of membership database for twice-yearly billing system, member communications, etc.
- Exploration of membership rate increases for 2023: research historical rate increases, research comparable organizations, evaluation of rates, implementation plan, and thorough communications
- Development and management of Durability Project fundraising
- Profiles of members in monthly and quarterly publications
- Built "in memoriam" tribute to appropriately acknowledge those we've lost in the past two years in absence of events and appropriate recognition opportunities

### Publications and Communications:

- McKinley final in-depth Report and Brochure finalized and distributed, found [here](#) Co-branded and cosponsored with CAP. Media push and distribution to all legislators, Administration, local governments, etc. Also created map of operations and projects as insert for education of those new to mining

- Alaska Miner Journal published monthly and Magazine quarterly: partnership with Fireweed Strategies to develop content-rich publication for our members and the public
- Production of AMA Handbook and Service Directory for members' use
- Continuous work to ensure AMA has strong social media presence: tracking of social media calendar, logging editorial content, highlighting member companies and issues, striving for entertaining and content that aligns with our values
- Ongoing website updating and management to share AMA's advocacy efforts and produce educational material

### Convention:

- After three long years, resumption of Annual Convention with record attendance, sponsorships!
- Planning efforts began extra early: assessment of 2021 cancelled event to identify what should be carried forward; assessment of all events.
- Conducted lengthy, targeted membership and attendee survey to identify needed changes.
- Months of Planning Committee, new members, new ideas
- Formation of new Young Professionals Event
- Biggest trade show, Core Shack, first floor presence ever
- Note that Biennial Convention in Fairbanks held in *even* years – next Convention Spring 2024

### Alaska Mining Day

- Organized Fairbanks Convention Committee and board members weekly planning of Mining Day, held weekly meetings up until May 10
- 10 presentations and over 20 speakers for a full day event, plus cocktail reception to close out
- Raised \$30,000 to cover event costs
- Extended reach to Fairbanks public to include those outside of industry
- Coordination of swag bags, introductions, moderators, vendor signage, social media, tributes, etc.
- Met with local event planner to determine venues, appropriate dates to avoid conflict
- Created media advisory and participated in interviews throughout day
- Extensive post-event coverage in AMA publications and elsewhere

### AMAPAC

- Staff support to treasurers
- Contributions to many bipartisan candidates in August and October, fundraising throughout year
- APOC reporting through required monthly, weekly, and 24 hour deadlines depending on proximity to election
- Held successful in person reception, issued non-election year contributions to candidates for Governor and Legislature and reconnected with members
- Reporting on AMA [website](#) for candidates supported by AMAPAC

### Other

- Circle Mining District Picnic attendance by Executive Director and two Statewide officers, many great contacts made and mining conversations taken place
- Mining Day at the Fairs in Fairbanks, Palmer, Southeast successful
- Attendance at the Institute for Natural Resources Law and service on Credentials Committee
- RDC Annual meeting

- Meeting with Kathleen Sgamma, Western Energy Alliance
- Presentation to Southeast Conference
- Panel at Alaska Chamber
- Meeting with Greenland government officials visiting to learn about mining regulatory and economic structure
- Presentation to Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation
- Presentation to Alliance Kenai Chapter
- Arctic Encounter sessions
- Alliance's Meet Alaska
- Hosted Darden School of Business (University of Virginia MBA program) students at RDC breakfast and for roundtable discussion with miners
- Participation in Interior Small Operators group
- Meeting with Felix Gold CEO
- Research for Alaska Business article on exploration
- Power the Future Energy Hour interview
- Podcast with Jeff Landfield