

## Usibelli Coal Mine: Concurrent Reclamation is Yielding Success<sup>1</sup>

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Usibelli Coal Mine Inc. (UCM) has been operating for the past 75 years near Healy, Alaska. Today UCM has active mining claims, which supply between 1-2 million tons of coal annually to domestic and overseas customers while maintaining a robust environmental program. Concurrent reclamation activities have proven successful in restoring previously mined lands to productive landscapes that are in various stages of bond release. The transition between mining areas will be showcased along with opportunities to enhance environmental stewardship in future mine areas with the continuing goal of final bond release. Recently UCM has begun to transition operations to the Jumbo Dome Mine (JDM), which required a 5.5-mile road construction project. Road ditches, culverts, and slopes were constructed to provide successful drainage control over the road corridor length and three wetland areas were successfully crossed along its route. Marguerite Creek flows through the area as well, which required a large culvert installation to cross the creek and to allow icing conditions, which occur 6-8 months out of any given year. UCM has been developing the JDM property and is advancing the boxcut while establishing a permanent out of pit spoil dump and beginning to establish reclamation slopes on the final outslope. The existing mine areas that UCM operate near Healy are the Gold Run Pass (GRP) Mine, Poker Flats (PF) Mine and Two Bull Ridge (TBR) Mine and reclamation efforts will be showcased.<sup>3</sup>

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1. Oral paper presented at the 2019 National Meeting of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation, Big Sky, MT. Welcome Back to Montana: The Land of Reclamation Pioneers, June 3–7, 2019. Published by ASMR, 1305 Weathervane Dr., Champaign, IL 61821.
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  3. Work reported here was conducted near 63°53'07" N, 148°57' 30" W.