

CASE STUDY

# TROY MINE: MODERN MINE RECLAMATION



RESPONSIBLE

Before we even begin, we think of the finish. Mine reclamation is fully integrated into the earliest stages of development and operations. Hecla Mining Company requires all sites and subsidiaries to develop and maintain current plans for reclamation and ultimate closure. The goal is to return the land to a productive state after mining has ended with minimal environmental impact so it can be used for other reasons, such as grazing cattle and for agricultural uses.

**Troy Mine began detailed reclamation planning and site work in Montana with two goals:**

1. Identifying and removing all remaining process chemicals
2. Developing detailed plans for completing reclamation of the tailings storage facility (TSF)



**By mid-2016**, Troy Mine personnel had successfully identified and removed most of the remaining process reagents and had nearly completed detailed TSF reclamation planning which was the largest land disturbance area associated with the mine.



**In 2017**, workers began the process of moving and placing almost 450,000 cubic yards of cover soil over 308 acres. Following soil placement, Troy Mine partnered with a CSKT tribal plant nursery to collect native plant seeds from the Troy Mine area and start more than 200,000 tree and shrub seedlings.



**In 2019**, final reclamation was completed in accordance with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) standards on 97 percent of the 317-acre Troy TSF and more than 200,000 trees and shrubs were planted. The goal is to create a self-sustaining native forest community which has already begun to grow.

The Troy Mine was constructed, operated, and will be reclaimed all without significant adverse environmental impacts. The mine has almost come full circle and once the reclamation is complete over the next three years, it will be hard to tell that a mine ever existed. A decade from now, all people will see is a dirt trail through a thriving forest.