

CASE STUDY

# TROY MINE: MODERN MINE RECLAMATION



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.



Reclamation of the Troy tailings storage facility (TSF) involved the moving and placing of almost 450,000 cubic yards of cover soil over 308 acres. Following soil placement, Troy Mine partnered with a Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) nursery to collect native plant seeds from the Troy Mine area and start more than 200,000 tree and shrub seedlings.



**In 2020**, we completed reclamation on the TSF and in early 2021, the State of Montana reduced the required financial assurance nearly \$8 million because Hecla Montana met or exceeded reclamation requirements for the TSF

The Troy Mine was constructed, operated, and is being reclaimed all without significant adverse environmental impacts. The mine has almost come full circle and once the reclamation is complete over the next several years, it will be hard to tell that a mine ever existed. We have planted more than 200,000 shrubs and trees that are already creating a self-sustaining native forest community and wildlife habitat.