

RCW 78.44.045 Surface mining reclamation account. (1) The surface mining reclamation account is created in the state treasury. Annual mining fees, funds received by the department from state, local, or federal agencies for research purposes, as well as other mine-related funds and fines received by the department shall be deposited into this account. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the surface mine [mining] reclamation account may be used by the department only to:

- (a) Administer its regulatory program pursuant to this chapter;
- (b) Undertake research relating to surface mine regulation, reclamation of surface mine lands, and related issues; and
- (c) Cover costs arising from appeals from determinations made under this chapter.

(2) At the end of each fiscal biennium, any money collected from fees charged under RCW 78.44.085 that was not used for the administration and enforcement of surface mining regulation under this chapter must be used by the department for surveying and mapping sand and gravel sites in the state.

(3) Fines, interest, and other penalties collected by the department under the provisions of this chapter shall be used to reclaim surface mines abandoned prior to 1971. [2006 c 341 § 2; 1993 c 518 § 10.]

Captions—Severability—Effective date—1993 c 518: See notes following RCW 78.44.010.