

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025



DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE
RESOURCES & REHABILITATION

Cover photo: Kayaking in Chisholm
Photo courtesy of Iron Range Tourism



Letter from the Commissioner



I am honored to present the Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR) Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) annual report. This report highlights the agency’s activities from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

This year brought disruption and uncertainty across the region. Communities faced pressure from emergency events, tight budgets and shifts in mining operations. Those shifts led to idled operations and layoffs that continue to hit Iron Range families and communities hard – impacts we hope are temporary. That impact underscores the importance of consistent, long-term investment.

In FY25, IRRR invested in the building blocks that communities need to grow, including housing, infrastructure, workforce development and support for business retention and expansion. Housing remained a priority because communities and employers continue to face challenges when housing supply does not match demand. IRRR also funded infrastructure improvements to public facilities, utilities and broadband access, along with regional trails and arts, culture and tourism projects that strengthen local economies and quality of life.

Economic diversification remains central to our mission. Mining continues to be an important part of the regional economy, and IRRR is also focused on expanding opportunity in emerging industries. In FY25, we worked with businesses, communities, educational institutions and Tribal Nations to attract investment and support growth in mineral exploration, clean energy, advanced manufacturing and next-generation wood and forestry product innovation.

This work is possible through strong collaboration with the IRRR Advisory Board, local leaders and regional partners. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient regional economy, and IRRR will continue investing in the foundations that help communities thrive.

Sincerely,

Ida Rukavina, Commissioner



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Groundbreaking for Northland Learning Center in Virginia. Photo in memory of Roy Smith (far left), a respected leader whose work at IRRR and Minnesota North College advanced education and workforce development across the Iron Range and beyond. Roy Smith passed away peacefully on October 14, 2025.

MISSION AND VISION

IRRR is a state of Minnesota economic development agency that reinvests local taconite production taxes back into northeastern Minnesota businesses and communities to strengthen and diversify the economy.

MISSION

Invest resources to foster vibrant growth and economic prosperity in northeastern Minnesota.

- Enhance livable communities.
- Maximize collaborations and partnerships.
- Strengthen businesses and worker education.

VISION

Long-term economic growth increases the well-being of all people in northeastern Minnesota.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Servant Leadership:** We believe a servant-leader is servant first, and we focus on what we can do for others.
- **People:** We respect, value and celebrate the unique attributes, characteristics and perspectives that make each person who they are.
- **Commitment:** We are committed to providing great service that impacts lives.
- **Empowerment:** We encourage employees to take initiative, engage in continuous improvement and give their best.
- **Collaboration:** We seek out and promote diverse alliances because we value others' knowledge, opinions and abilities, and together we can more effectively address the issues that face our region.

STRATEGIES

- **Investment in Communities:** Invest in foundational, business and social assets of communities to ensure quality of life for all residents.
- **Investment in Businesses:** Respond to business needs with creative and flexible financial solutions.
- **Investment in Workforce:** Workers have the education and training to meet business needs.
- **Investment in Giants Ridge:** Agency investment increases Giants Ridge's economic impact and contributes to the quality of life in the region.

Hull Rust Mine View
Photo courtesy of Jim Schnortz



FUNDING

IRRR is funded primarily by a portion of a local taconite production tax paid by mining companies on each ton of iron ore pellets produced. The tax is paid in lieu of property taxes by mining companies located within the agency's service area. Prior to the agency receiving funds, dedicated amounts of the tax are legislatively distributed to local governments, schools and counties. The commissioner presents an annual budget for approval to the IRRR Board and governor.

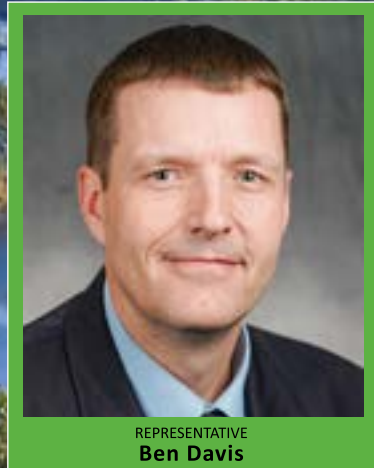
SERVICE AREA

The Taconite Assistance Area is a region defined by Minnesota State Statute (§273.1341). It is the geographic area in which the agency is authorized to expend its funding. The service area encompasses 13,000 square miles in northeastern Minnesota, including 53 cities, 134 townships, 15 school districts and portions of four Tribal Nations.





SENATOR
Bobby Joe Champion



REPRESENTATIVE
Ben Davis



SENATOR
Robert Farnsworth



SENATOR
Grant Hauschild



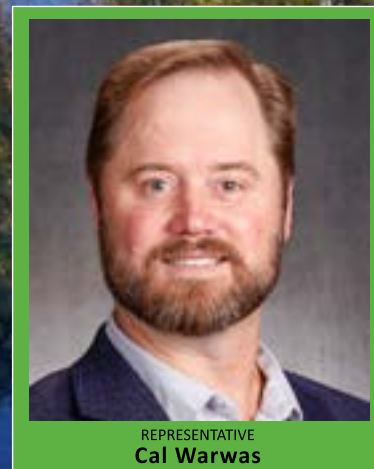
SENATOR
Keri Heintzeman



REPRESENTATIVE
Spencer Igo



REPRESENTATIVE
Roger Skraba



REPRESENTATIVE
Cal Warwas

IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION BOARD

The IRRR Board is an advisory board, which consists of elected officials, including State Senators and Representatives. These individuals are elected by the residents of northeastern Minnesota to advocate for their interests and make informed recommendations regarding the allocation of production tax resources. Board members are from state senatorial or legislative districts in which one-third or more of the residents reside within the agency's service area. One additional State Senator is appointed by the senate Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee on Rules and Administration. The advisory board reviews and recommends projects presented by communities and businesses that have the commissioner's support. The board must also approve the agency's budget annually.

Board members as of May 7, 2025 included:

- Senator Bobby Joe Champion, District 59
- Representative Ben Davis, District 6A
- Senator Robert Farnsworth, District 7
- Senator Grant Hauschild, District 3
- Senator Keri Heintzeman, District 6
- Representative Spencer Igo, District 7A
- Representative Roger Skraba, District 3A
- Representative Cal Warwas, District 7B

GRANTS

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

Broadband Infrastructure grants assist projects that help households and businesses reach the state of Minnesota broadband speed goal.

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
FY25		
Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative - Expand fiber within the city of Mountain Iron and Great Scott Township to serve 96 households	\$217,000	\$808,960
Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative - Expand fiber north of Morcom Township to serve 35 households	383,000	1,111,743
Paul Bunyan Rural Telephone Cooperative - Expand fiber within Field, Alango and Sturgeon Townships to serve 420 households - Phase 1	400,000	6,023,266
Total	\$1,000,000	\$7,943,969

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Promote business development opportunities and attract investments to the region.

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
FY25		
Coleraine - Infrastructure for new child care center	\$400,000	\$4,121,990
Total	\$400,000	\$4,121,990

BUSINESS ENERGY RETROFIT (BER)

BER grants assist business owners with energy efficiency improvements to their buildings. BER is funded by IRRR and administered through a partnership with Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA).

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
FY25		
AEOA - Support 87 grants to small businesses across 25 communities (Some of these grants received agency funding from another fiscal year or program.)	\$1,500,000	\$5,226,602
Total	\$1,500,000	\$5,226,602

COMMERCIAL REDEVELOPMENT

Commercial Redevelopment grants assist with the full and selective demolition of commercial and industrial buildings and the clean-up of brownfields to pave the way for new development.

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
FY25		
Chisholm-Hibbing Airport Authority - Demolition and brownfield remediation for a vacant commercial building for redevelopment	\$90,000	\$180,003
Coleraine - Selective demolition of commercial building for redevelopment (Home and Comfort Assisted Living)	60,000	1,726,000
Ely - Brownfield remediation of a commercial building for redevelopment (Ely Train Depot) - Phase 1	200,000*	0**
Ely - Selective demolition, brownfield remediation and demolition of commercial buildings for redevelopment (Ely Community Center Hotel Conversion) - Phase 1	200,000	4,900,000
Grand Rapids - Selective demolition of vacant commercial buildings for redevelopment (Block 19)	40,000*	0**
Hibbing - Demolition of a substandard structure for redevelopment (Hibbing Raceway) - Phase 1	20,000	41,800
Hibbing - Selective demolition of a vacant downtown building for redevelopment (Hibbing Elks) - Phase 1	91,000	564,504
Hibbing - Demolition and abatement of substandard downtown commercial buildings for redevelopment (Block 400) - Phase 1	21,312	428,312
Hibbing - Selective demolition of a commercial building for redevelopment (Sunrise Bakery) - Phase 1	35,000*	280,000
Hibbing - Brownfield remediation for a downtown commercial building for redevelopment (Arrow Auto)	14,784	295,202
Nashwauk - Demolition, brownfield remediation and selective demolition of commercial buildings for redevelopment (Central Ave. Design Co.)	30,000*	145,725
Palisade - Selective demolition and abatement of a substandard downtown building for redevelopment	45,000	112,874
Virginia - Selective demolition and abatement of downtown commercial buildings for redevelopment (Bois Forte Urban Office)	145,000	1,800,000
Total	\$992,096	\$10,474,420

CULTURE & TOURISM

Culture & Tourism grants assist projects that support arts, culture, history, tourism and recreational activities, enhance the quality of life in the region and attract visitors.

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
FY25		
Aitkin County Friends of the Arts - Renovations at The Terrace	\$30,000	\$60,000
American Bear Association - Construct new wildlife sanctuary	30,000	60,000
Aurora - Construct Pine Grove Park warming house and shelter	30,000	163,693

*Project received agency funding from another fiscal year or program. **Total project investment included in another fiscal year or program.

CULTURE & TOURISM GRANTS - CONTINUED

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
Babbitt - Improvements at city's park	\$30,000	\$69,192
Bigfork Valley Community Foundation - Support destination marketing campaign	25,000	60,000
Cast Outdoor Adventures Inc. - Purchase adaptive dog sleds	6,000	12,000
Cook County Community YMCA d/b/a Duluth Area Family YMCA - Construct inclusive playground	30,000	102,544
Crow Wing County Land Services - Construct non-motorized walking trails at Milford Mine Memorial Park	30,000*	0**
Ely Area Community Foundation - Renovate a multi-purpose space at the Ely Area Hub	25,000	50,000
Ely's Historic State Theater - Upgrade facility and technology	30,000*	175,650
Eveleth Heritage Society - Preserve Franklin Elementary School mural	4,500	13,040
Flintlock Range Association - Upgrade the Flintlock Sports Park shooting and archery range facility	14,100	28,522
French Township - Construct new pickleball courts	30,000	116,320
Grand Marais Art Colony - Construct a new outdoor classroom and community gathering space	10,000	20,000
Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council Business Committee - Restoration of the Grand Portage Log School and Community Building	30,000	61,305
Greenwood Community Recreation Board - Upgrade Greenwood Township Recreation Area	10,000	39,000
Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce - Purchase traveling mural system	13,950	27,900
Iron Range Tourism Bureau - Support marketing campaign in St. Cloud region	20,000	55,000
Itasca County Land Department - Construct new pavilion and ADA accessibility upgrades at Bass Lake Park & Campground	30,000	69,000
Itasca Ski and Outing Inc. - Purchase snow guns and facility upgrades at Mount Itasca	30,000	64,000
John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon - Support the 2025 John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon	8,900	21,000
Judy Garland Children's Museum - Renovations to the Children's Discovery Museum	14,000	33,000
Knife River Heritage and Cultural Center - Enhance boat shelter with cultural aspects	1,275	2,550
Lincoln Parent Teacher Organization - Construct inclusive playground at Lincoln Elementary School - Phase 2	30,000*	0**
Noatun Community Wooden Boat Works - Support wooden ship building and new shop space	12,000	24,000
Pelican Lake Resort Association - Support marketing campaign for Pelican Lake	25,000	50,000
Silica Volunteer Fire Department - Construct new pickleball court	24,500	56,150
Stages of the Range Players - Support performances by Stages of the Range Players	9,500	25,813
Truman Blakesley American Legion Post 432 - Upgrade and install new recreational amenities at campground - Phase 2	11,500*	95,400
VFW Post 4456 - Purchase power wheelchair lift for community events - Gilbert	4,175	8,350
Total	\$599,400	\$1,563,428

12 *Project received agency funding from another fiscal year or program. **Total project investment included in another fiscal year or program.

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Development Partnership grants provide funds for research, planning, education and development-based initiatives that support the long-term economic growth of northeastern Minnesota.

FY25

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
Aitkin County Growth d/b/a Growth Innovations - Market study for housing development	\$7,500	\$29,400
Curl Mesabi Foundation - Support the Pan Continental Curling Championships	50,000	130,000
East Range Joint Powers Board - Economic development initiatives	50,000	110,000
Eveleth - Support downtown business attraction and retention efforts	9,485	18,969
Eveleth - Development plan and brownfield remediation for Alice Location	60,000	139,495
Hibbing - Facility planning for the Androy Ballroom	3,750	7,500
Hibbing Chisholm Youth Hockey Association - Economic impact study	4,000	8,000
Itasca Economic Development Corporation - Support Thrive Up North initiative - Phase 4	10,000	74,000
Itasca Economic Development Corporation - Support Bigfork Business Revitalization Grant Program	16,500	66,000
Iron Range Learning and Development Center - Expansion and retention of child care facility	270,000*	984,900
Iron Range Tourism Bureau - Purchase geolocation software for tourism	7,500	15,000
Laurentian Chamber of Commerce - Purchase economic development analytic software	5,000	10,000
Nashwauk - Zoning ordinance reform plan	12,000	24,000
Northland Foundation - Support the Northland Small Business Development Center	100,000	716,000
Northland Foundation - Iron ore study	50,000	100,000
Northspan Group Inc. - Support producers and partners in regional food systems	20,000	51,966
Northspan Group Inc. - Support Driving Access to Wealth & Networks (DAWN)	50,000	915,253
Upper Midwest Film Office - Support film production and industry in the Taconite Assistance Area	500,000	26,500,000
Virginia - Downtown Commercial Rehabilitation Program	200,000	625,000
Total	\$1,425,735	\$30,525,483
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP (DBR)		
DBR grants assist business owners with code compliance improvement projects. DBR is funded by IRRR and administered through a partnership with Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA).		
FY25		
AEOA - Support 11 grants to small businesses across nine communities (Some of these grants received agency funding from another fiscal year or program.)	\$500,000	\$1,051,450
Total	\$500,000	\$1,051,450

*Project received agency funding from another fiscal year or program.

DRILLING INCENTIVE

Drilling Incentive grants are designed to stimulate exploration for new minerals and/or new deposits of minerals.

FY25

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
Keewaydin Resources Inc. - Conduct exploratory boring at Topaz site - Jetstream 2	\$20,000	\$1,877,500
United States Steel Corporation - Minntac - Support Exploration Drilling Program and analysis	80,000	499,375
Total	\$100,000	\$2,376,875

GRANT WRITING ASSISTANCE

The Grant Writing Assistance program reimburses the costs of preparing and applying for a non-agency grant that will advance economic growth.

FY25

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
Breitung Township - Construct trail segment from Hoodoo Point to Vermilion Loop Trail	\$1,500	\$3,000
Embarrass Region Fair Association - Funding for operational expenses and capital improvement projects	3,000	6,000
Great Expectations Foundation - Funding for financial and educational support	3,000	7,800
Tower-Soudan Historical Society - Interior renovations for the historic fire hall	3,000	6,000
Vermilion Housing Corporation - Rehabilitation of multi-family housing units	3,000	44,000
Total	\$13,500	\$66,800

HOUSING

Housing grants assist projects or programs that result in the creation of new housing units or the rehabilitation of existing housing units. The program will support housing solutions that align with local priorities and regional employers' needs.

FY25

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
AEOA - Deferred loan program for the rehabilitation of up to 20 rental properties in the Quad Cities	\$300,000	\$615,000
Babbitt - Infrastructure for 18 single-family lots and two multi-family lots	1,450,000	3,985,469
Cook - Infrastructure for nine single-family lots	180,000	362,514
Cook County Housing & Redevelopment Authority - Infrastructure for two single-family lots	112,000	273,170
Ely - Construct and provide infrastructure for a 37-unit market rate workforce apartment building (Wilderness Escape)	3,737,204*	0**

HOUSING GRANTS - CONTINUED

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
Eveleth - Infrastructure for 28 single-family lots and two multi-family lots	2,000,000	9,476,749
Housing & Redevelopment Authority of Virginia - Rehabilitation of 63 market-rate housing units (Washington Manor)	650,000	4,880,000
Housing & Redevelopment Authority of Itasca County - Local Housing Trust Fund	50,000	1,185,000
Itasca County Habitat for Humanity - Construct three homes	258,000	848,569
North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity - Infrastructure, construction and rehabilitation of nine homes	750,000	1,776,735
Trellis Co. - Rehabilitation of 54 housing units (Hilltop Manor)	250,000	15,290,284
Total	\$9,737,204	\$38,693,490

MINELAND RECLAMATION

Mineland Reclamation grants assist with highly visible development and restoration of mining-impacted land.

FY25

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
Bovey - Enhance Greenway Sports Complex amenities - Phase 2	\$140,000*	\$287,469
Crow Wing County Land Services - Expand non-motorized trails and public amenities around the Milford Mine Memorial Park - Phase 2	100,000*	500,000
Virginia - Planning for development of Eastern Recreation Area - Phase 1	31,350	62,700
Total	\$271,350	\$850,169

MINING IMPACT

The Mining Impact Fund provides a resource for quick response to mining impacts related to mining activities.

FY25

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Perform hazardous materials survey at Hill Annex Mine	\$18,167*	\$18,167
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Remediate mercury contamination at Hill Annex Mine	42,491*	42,491
Virginia - Address surface soil assessment Northern Heights Stockpile - Phase 5	300,000*	300,000
Total	\$360,658	\$360,658

PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works grants support local and Tribal governments with infrastructure funding that provides essential services and promotes economic development.

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
FY25		
Aitkin - Reconstruct runway with new taxiway turnarounds	\$165,000	\$2,651,000
Aitkin - Construct a new water tower	400,000	4,124,250
Aurora - Upgrade sewer lines and storm water system	200,000	980,000
Aurora - New water treatment facility - Phase 3	500,000*	9,000,000
Babbitt - Extend water and sewer lines to the Hideaway Bar	60,000	120,000
Biwabik - Replacement of sanitary sewer main	70,500	153,635
Biwabik Township - Construction costs for fire hall expansion	161,000	1,233,438
Bovey - Construct utilities for Palmer Bus Company	267,790	1,239,740
Calumet - Renovations and accessibility upgrades to city hall and library	300,000	1,017,896
Chisholm - Infrastructure and utility replacement of 5th Street and 6th Street NE	600,000	1,582,360
Cook - Repairs and renovation of public library	85,000	336,500
Crosby - Utility replacement of 1st and 2nd Street alleys	400,000	2,675,428
Ely - Upgrade infrastructure and replace water main	500,000	5,131,000
Ely - Reconstruct Harvey Street	200,000	4,058,000
Eveleth - Install new boiler system to restore multi-purpose building	500,000	1,062,070
Eveleth - Replace water main on Miller Trunk Road	100,000	548,780
Grand Rapids - Infrastructure upgrades for redevelopment of two downtown buildings	180,000*	2,100,000
Grand Rapids - Infrastructure upgrades for redevelopment of vacant downtown building	130,000*	1,433,000
Hibbing - Upgrade city hall with new windows and masonry repairs - Phase 1	600,000	1,743,695
Hibbing Public Utilities Commission - Replace water main, valves and hydrants and road reconstruction	500,000	6,485,545
Hoyt Lakes - Upgrade arena with ADA accessibility, seating and site improvements	250,000	2,246,933
Keewatin - Replace roof and repair exterior walls at fire hall	53,000	128,360
Kelsey Township - Repair town hall foundation, roof and attic trusses	70,000	140,201
Lawrence Township - Upgrades and restoration of township hall	23,000	64,500
Orr - Repair waterlines, upgrade wastewater plant and replace airport lighting	260,000	807,536
Orr - Sitework and construction of new T-hangar at airport	130,000	1,500,000
Tower - Install water, sewer and electric utilities for housing development	566,000*	12,780,393

PUBLIC WORKS GRANTS - CONTINUED

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
Virginia - Replace and relocate sewer lines to support businesses	165,000	389,000
Virginia - Install solar panels and replace heating, ventilation and air conditioning in public safety and tennis facilities	400,000*	1,355,000
Total	\$7,836,290	\$67,088,260

REGIONAL TRAILS

Regional Trails grants assist with the design, engineering and construction of various types of trails.

FY25

Breitung Township - Master planning and design for Vermilion Loop Trail segment	\$22,000	\$46,000
Chisholm - Development of the Redhead Mountain Bike Park - Phase 3	1,000,000*	2,728,240
Ely - Purchase trail maintenance equipment for Prospector ATV Trail system	50,000	138,611
Ely - Expand mountain bike trails in Ely area - Phase 2	100,000*	405,000
Eveleth - Reconstruct Fayal Pond Trail parking area - Phase 3	31,767*	63,535
Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability - Purchase snowmobile to maintain golf course trail	1,485	2,970
Iron Range Tourism Bureau - Support Northern St. Louis County Trails Task Force projects	50,000	100,000
Itasca County Land Department - Purchase and install trail fencing along Pokegama Lake	22,007	56,160
Itasca Driftskippers Snowmobile Club - Purchase trail maintenance equipment	28,546	57,093
Northeast Regional ATV Trail Joint Powers Board - Build trail connection from Aerie Lake to ATV trail in Alborn	100,000	320,000
Northeast Regional ATV Trail Joint Powers Board - Support Prospector, Voyageur, Ranger, Alborn and Quad Cities ATV trail development projects	2,160,000	4,320,000
Range Trail Committee Inc. - Upgrades to Laurentian and Virginia spur trails	7,695	15,390
Superior Cycling Association - Rehabilitation of trail segment at Pincushion Mountain	27,000	54,000
Vermilion Penguin Snowmobile Club - Purchase new trail groomer	50,000*	269,000
Voyageur Snowmobile Club - Construct new bridge and update signage on Yukon Trail	9,500	29,000
Total	\$3,660,000	\$8,604,999

RESIDENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT

Residential Redevelopment grants assist with demolishing residential structures or full deconstruction of homes for reuse of materials. Projects must eliminate blight, improve property maintenance, promote health and safety, reduce waste or encourage economic development.

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
FY25		
Aurora - Demolish one house	\$4,020	\$12,000
Biwabik - Demolish one house	2,850	7,240
Biwabik - Demolish one garage	1,560	5,610
Chisholm - Demolish four houses, three garages and one accessory structure	25,098	58,447
Chisholm - Demolish three houses, four garages and one accessory structure	38,019	70,926
Hibbing - Demolish one house, three garages and two accessory structures	16,530	23,418
Total	\$88,077	\$177,641

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Workforce Development grants assist with education, training and career awareness initiatives that address regional workforce needs and gaps emerging in industries and schools.

Workforce Job Training grants assist with training costs for workers at new or expanding businesses as part of an IRRR business development package to address employment and industry needs in the region.

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
FY25		
Minnesota North College - Support Cannabis Program Development - Job Training	\$50,000	\$50,000
Minnesota North College - Support Advanced Machine Guarding Solutions (AMGS) Robotics Training - Job Training	60,180	115,234
Minnesota North College - Support True North Stars Career Exploration program - Development	75,000	152,742
Minnesota North College - Support emergency services and healthcare frontline worker training programs - Development	175,000*	350,000
Northeast Service Cooperative - Support Northeast Minnesota Future Forward programming - Development	39,820	93,204
Total	\$400,000	\$761,180

ADDITIONAL AGENCY INVESTMENTS

These targeted and strategic investments are designed to address unique needs and opportunities in the region. They include responsive and partnership-based efforts, such as economic recovery funds, cultural institution support, legislatively directed funding and special-purpose grants.

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
FY25		
Babbitt Golf Association - Rebuild pump house and repair flood damage	\$35,000	\$50,877
Chisholm - Install Senator David J. Tomassoni Memorial Expressway signage	4,757	4,757
Chisholm ISD No. 695 - Capital projects (Educational Facilities Revenue Bond Account)	8,000,000	8,000,000
Ely-Winton Historical Society - Produce Tour Ely marketing materials	3,900	7,800
Fall Lake Township - Develop plans for new community building	25,000	\$50,000
Iron Range Learning and Development Center - Remediate emergency flood damage	5,000	10,986
Iron Range Tourism Bureau - Promote regional marketing through Hello Range initiative	50,000	74,000
Ironworld Development Corporation d/b/a Minnesota Discovery Center - Operating, capital expenditures and fundraising match	2,050,000	3,854,589
Itasca County - Replace emergency sewer line	40,000	134,000
Kinney - Complete emergency municipal well repairs	13,000	23,197
Lake Superior ISD No. 381 - Capital projects (Educational Facilities Revenue Bond Account)	8,000,000	52,700,000
McKinley - Perform residential property evaluation	19,250	19,250
Northland Learning Center - Capital projects (Educational Facilities Revenue Bond Account)	10,600,000	17,685,000
Virginia - Steam conversion upgrades for downtown redevelopment	103,993	223,993
Total	\$28,949,900	\$82,838,449

LOANS

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Promote business development opportunities and attract investments to the region.

FY25	TYPE	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
Airmark Inc. d/b/a Nelson Wood Shims - Purchase equipment	Participation	\$449,000	\$998,000
Advanced Machine Guarding Solutions - Working capital	Loan Guaranty	150,000	200,000
Dirty Dog Manufacturing - Restructure debt	Loan Guaranty	75,000	134,594
Iron Range Apparel - Purchase building	Loan Guaranty	150,000	450,000
Iron Range Learning and Development Center d/b/a Apple Tree Learning - Purchase building	Participation	350,000*	0**
Lake States Evergreen Company LLC - Working capital	Loan Guaranty	75,000	100,000
Lonely Loon LLC d/b/a Superior Creamery - Purchase building	Participation	205,000	464,000
Northern Expanding Industrial d/b/a AREMCO - Purchase building	Participation	72,500	145,000
Perpich TV & Music Inc. - Purchase real estate	Participation	160,000	500,000
Reynolds Manufacturing Inc. d/b/a Northland Machine Inc. - Purchase equipment	Participation	442,000	983,000
Sure-Fab LLC - Purchase equipment	Participation	50,000	150,000
Trison Solutions LLC - Purchase equipment	Participation	850,000	3,150,000
Virginia Plastics LLC - Purchase equipment	Participation	136,500	380,000
Total		\$3,165,000	\$7,654,594

OTHER ACCOUNTS & FUNDING

HIGHWAY 1 CORRIDOR ACCOUNT

The Highway 1 Corridor Account was established by the 2008 Minnesota Legislature. These laws allow for expenditure of monies in the Highway 1 Corridor Account to be spent for economic development projects in the cities of Babbitt, Cook, Ely or Tower.

The grant and loan programs for Cook provided financial assistance to business owners whose buildings and operations were directly impacted by the devastating flood that occurred on June 18, 2024. The flood caused extensive damage to community infrastructure, businesses and homes in Cook as well as several other communities in the agency's service area.

Minnesota Statute Section 298.2961 (2008) as reauthorized by 2017 Laws of Minnesota, 1st Special Session, Ch. 1, Art. 11, Sec. 18

FY25	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
Cook - Provide grants to support flood impacted businesses	\$252,900	n/a
Cook - Provide loans to support flood impacted businesses	2,200,000	n/a
Tower - Install water, sewer and electric utilities for housing development	482,000*	0**
Total	\$2,934,900	n/a

IRON RANGE HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOUNT

The Iron Range Higher Education Account was established by the 2008 Minnesota Legislature. The Iron Range Higher Education Committee advises the commissioner on providing higher education programs conducted at educational institutions in the Taconite Assistance Area. Programs are funded by five cents per taxable ton of the taconite production tax that are placed in the Iron Range Higher Education Account. The Committee and the IRRR Commissioner, after consultation with the IRRR Advisory Board, must both approve all expenditures from the account.

Minnesota Statutes Section 298.28 Subd. 9d

FY25

Minnesota North College - Support academic program revitalization and growth strategies	\$982,719	\$1,757,129
Minnesota North College - Support Iron Range Engineering Program	400,000	2,600,000
Total	\$1,382,719	\$4,357,129

IRON RANGE SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

The Iron Range Schools & Community Development Account provides disbursements to assist school districts with the payment of bonds that were issued for qualified school projects, or for any other school disbursement as approved by the commissioner of IRRR after consultation with the IRRR Board.

Minnesota Statutes Section 298.28 Subd. 7a

	AGENCY INVESTMENT
FY25	
Mesabi East ISD No. 2711 - Facility improvements of K-12 school	\$500,000*
Mountain Iron-Buhl ISD No. 712 - Construction of new high school	1,572,280*
Nashwauk-Keewatin ISD No. 319 - Construction of new K-12 school	720,000*
Rock Ridge ISD No. 2909 - Construction of two new elementary schools and one high school	4,900,000*
St. Louis County ISD No. 2142 - Construction and facility improvements of schools	2,000,000*
Total	\$9,692,280

TACONITE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Taconite Economic Development Fund was established by the 1992 Minnesota Legislature. In years when the total industry production exceeds 30 million tons, up to 25.1 cents per ton of the taconite production tax may be rebated to northeastern Minnesota iron ore mining operations. The rebate must be used for:

- Workforce development.
- Concurrent reclamation.
- Plant and stationary mining equipment.
- Facilities for the producer.
- Research and development in Minnesota on new mining or production technology.

Minnesota Statutes Section 298.227

	AGENCY INVESTMENT	TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT
FY25		
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. - Hibbing Taconite Company - Tailings basin decant structure and booster pump	\$698,171	\$2,142,963
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. - Northshore Mining Company - Limestone mill, filter, softener replacement and west pellet plant elevator modernization	845,853	1,716,165
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. - United Taconite - Crusher feed and screen upgrade and tailings pipeline upgrades	1,182,134	2,488,797
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. - Minorca Mine - Tailings storage facility buttressing	1,601,608	5,936,455
United States Steel Corporation - Keetac - Design and integrate high intensity grinding mill to produce direct reduced-grade pellets	1,291,822	3,021,314
United States Steel Corporation - Minntac - Crusher dust collector replacements and lines 7 and 8 pre-classification	3,164,996	7,109,239
Total	\$8,784,584	\$22,414,933

MINERALS ARTICLE REVENUE BONDS

During 2024, the Minnesota Legislature enacted, as part of the Omnibus Tax Bill, a Minerals Article that requires IRRR issue \$49,000,000 of revenue bonds in FY25 and \$31,000,000 of revenue bonds in FY26 to finance up to 82 grants, as specified in the Minerals Article (see below). Funds that would otherwise be allocated to the agency under Minnesota Statutes Section 298.28 will be used to pay the debt service on the bonds. Projects denoted with an asterisk (*) must present a project plan to the IRRR Board before receipt of any bond distributions. The initial \$49,000,000 of bonds were issued in December 2024, the remaining \$31,000,000 of bonds were issued in November 2025.

	AGENCY INVESTMENT
Alborn Dirt Devils ATV Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	\$25,000
Babbitt ATV and Snowmobile Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Babbitt - ADA compliance and renovations to the city's parks	200,000
Babbitt - Renovations to the ice arena	1,500,000*
Biwabik - Housing infrastructure	360,000
Biwabik - A public safety facility	1,000,000*
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa - Food shelf expenses	50,000
Buhl - Infrastructure projects	500,000
Buyck Volunteer Fire Department - Design, engineer and construct a new fire and training hall and related equipment	950,000
CC Riders Snowmobile Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Central Iron Range Sanitary Sewer District - Infrastructure projects	850,000
Central Iron Range Sanitary Sewer District - Infrastructure projects	350,000
Cherry Township - Recreational facilities upgrades and lights	250,000
Chisholm - \$1,520,000 to be used to renovate the Chisholm Ice Arena facility and parking, the remaining amount must be used for the public works facility	2,720,000*
Commissioner of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation - Design, engineering and upgrades or replacement of chair lifts or an irrigation system and for the design, engineering, demolition and construction of a nordic and welcome center at Giants Ridge	5,200,000*
Commissioner of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation - Grants or loans to businesses or resorts that were economically damaged by floods that occurred in 2022 or 2023 and are eligible under Article 5 of the Canadian border counties economic relief program or outfitters in the border region who experienced either more than 50 percent reduction in Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness permits obtained by their customers between 2019 and 2021 or a 50 percent reduction between 2019 and 2021 in trips across the fee-based mechanical portages into the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness or Quetico Provincial Park. Businesses may be awarded a maximum grant under this clause of up to \$50,000 - businesses must be located within the Taconite Assistance Area and have not received a grant under the Canadian border counties economic relief program	500,000
Commissioner of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation - Design, engineering and upgrades or replacement of chair lifts or an irrigation system and for the design, engineering, demolition and construction of a nordic and welcome center at Giants Ridge	7,600,000*

MINERALS ARTICLE REVENUE BONDS - CONTINUED

	AGENCY INVESTMENT
Cook County - \$250,000 to preserve affordable housing units for seniors in the city of Grand Marais and \$2,000,000 to construct, furnish and equip a solid waste transfer station	2,250,000*
Cook County ATV Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Cook County Higher Education Board - Costs to bring commercial drivers' licenses and trades training to the region along with educational training and academic support to remote populations	200,000
Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club - Update maintenance equipment and trail programs	75,000
Cook Timberwolves Snowmobile Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Crane Lake Voyageurs Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Crystal Bay Township - A septic project at the Clair Nelson Community Center	100,000
East Range Development Achievement Center - Building renovations	350,000
Ely Igloo Snowmobile Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Ely ISD No. 696 - Baseball field renovations	250,000
Ely ISD No. 696 - Planning, design, engineering, demolition and construction related to the districts athletic complex	5,000,000*
Essentia Health - Virginia Regional Foundation - Development of a substance use disorder community education and awareness program	50,000
Eveleth Trail Hawks Snowmobile Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Eveleth - Design, engineer and construct public utilities in its business park and construct the Hat Trick Avenue slip ramp	3,640,000*
Eveleth - The renovation of the Hippodrome	350,000
Finland Snowmobile and ATV Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Gilbert - The Gilbert Community Center	1,000,000*
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa - Construct playground	160,000
Hibbing - Housing development	1,150,000*
Hibbing - Develop the Hull Rust Mine historic site	550,000
Hibbing ISD No. 701 - Be used for long term maintenance needs	300,000
Hibbing Public Utilities - Water infrastructure projects	3,000,000*
Hibbing Public Utilities - Water infrastructure projects	1,770,000*
Lake Superior ISD No. 381- Support an emergency preparedness career introduction program	150,000
Lake Vermilion Cultural Center - Improve and renovate the facility and its displays	100,000
Lone Pine Township - Design, engineer and begin construction for its sewage treatment plant in partnership with city of Nashwauk	3,000,000*
Lyric Center for the Arts - Repairs and renovations	50,000
Meadowlands - Costs related to park improvements and a community center	700,000
Mesabi Fit Coalition - Renovate, reconstruct and expand the former Mesabi Family YMCA in the city of Mountain Iron	3,600,000*

MINERALS ARTICLE REVENUE BONDS - CONTINUED	AGENCY INVESTMENT
Mesabi Sno Voyageurs - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Minnesota Discovery Center - \$200,000 may, at the discretion of the director of Minnesota Discovery Center, be used for operating expenses and \$2,220,000 must be used to design, construct, renovate, furnish and repair facilities, including HVAC upgrades, demolition and ADA compliance and for historical research funding	2,420,000*
Minnesota Discovery Center - \$200,000 for operating expenses and \$3,000,000 must be used to design, construct, renovate, furnish and repair facilities, including HVAC upgrades, demolition and ADA compliance as well as historical research funding	3,200,000*
Minnesota Forest Zone Trappers Association - Plan, engineer, purchase land and develop the Sportsperson Training and Development Center	225,000
Mountain Iron - The Outdoor Recreation Center	500,000
Mountain Iron - Infrastructure projects including but not limited to Enterprise Drive Northeast infrastructure development, water main and other infrastructure in the city, waste water plant improvements to comply with new permits, supervisory control and data acquisition on lift stations and recreation projects	2,000,000*
Northern Lights Music Festival - \$100,000 available each year in calendar years 2025, 2026 and 2027 to support programs	300,000
Northern Traxx ATV Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Northland Learning Center - Construction costs	1,000,000*
Northland Learning Center - Construct the Alternate Learning Center in the campus in the city of Mountain Iron	1,080,000*
Northwoods Friends of the Arts - Facility upgrades and programs	25,000
PathBlazers Snowmobile Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Pequaywan Area Trail Blazers Snowmobile Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Pioneer Mine historical site - Maintenance and displays	50,000
Prospector ATV Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Quad Cities ATV Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Ranger Snowmobile/ATV Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Rock Ridge ISD No. 2909 - Demolition of the James Madison Elementary School in Virginia	1,000,000*
Save Our Ship Inc. - Renovation costs	200,000
Silver Bay - Design, engineer, construct and reconstruct publicly owned infrastructure including sewers, water systems, utility extensions, street construction, wastewater treatment, stormwater management systems, sidewalks and ADA compliance	3,000,000*
Silver Bay - Design, engineer, construct and reconstruct publicly owned infrastructure including sewers, water systems, utility extensions, street construction, wastewater treatment, stormwater management systems, sidewalks and ADA compliance	3,000,000*
Silver Trail Riders Snowmobile and ATV Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
St. Louis and Lake Counties Regional Railroad Authority - Design, engineer, acquire right of way and begin construction on the Mesabi Trail Spur from Aurora to Hoyt Lakes	500,000

MINERALS ARTICLE REVENUE BONDS - CONTINUED	AGENCY INVESTMENT
St. Louis County - Develop the Canyon Integrated Solid Waste Management Campus	2,100,000*
St. Louis County - Demolition of the public school in Hoyt Lakes	500,000
St. Louis County ISD No. 2142 - \$400,000 must be used for septic system upgrades at South Ridge School and \$200,000 must be used for cafeteria renovations at Northeast Range School in Babbitt and Tower Elementary School in Tower	600,000
Sturgeon Chain Lake Association - Update the engineering and hydrology study of the lakes for regulatory and community outreach and for preparing recommendations for the commissioner of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources related to bank stabilization and maintenance	200,000
Tower - Water management infrastructure projects	3,000,000*
Two Harbors - Repair bandstands and restore Odegard Park and Trail	250,000
Vermilion Penguins Snowmobile Club - Update maintenance equipment and trail programs	75,000
Vermilion Penguins Snowmobile Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Veterans on the Lake - Demolition of existing structures and the building of a triplex that is ADA compliant	400,000
Virginia - Modernize, renovate and expand the Essentia Health-Virginia hospital emergency room complex to 12 emergency rooms, construct an emergency behavior health suite for adults and children within the hospital and security and safety upgrades to the hospital	3,300,000*
Voyageur Snowmobile Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Voyageur Trail Society - A joint maintenance facility with Voyageur Country ATV in the city of Orr	750,000
Wild Country ATV Club - Trail grooming costs or equipment	25,000
Total	\$80,000,000

The Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report recaps the IRRR's activities from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The information in the report is accurate as of September 2, 2025 and is subject to change.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request by calling 218-735-3061.

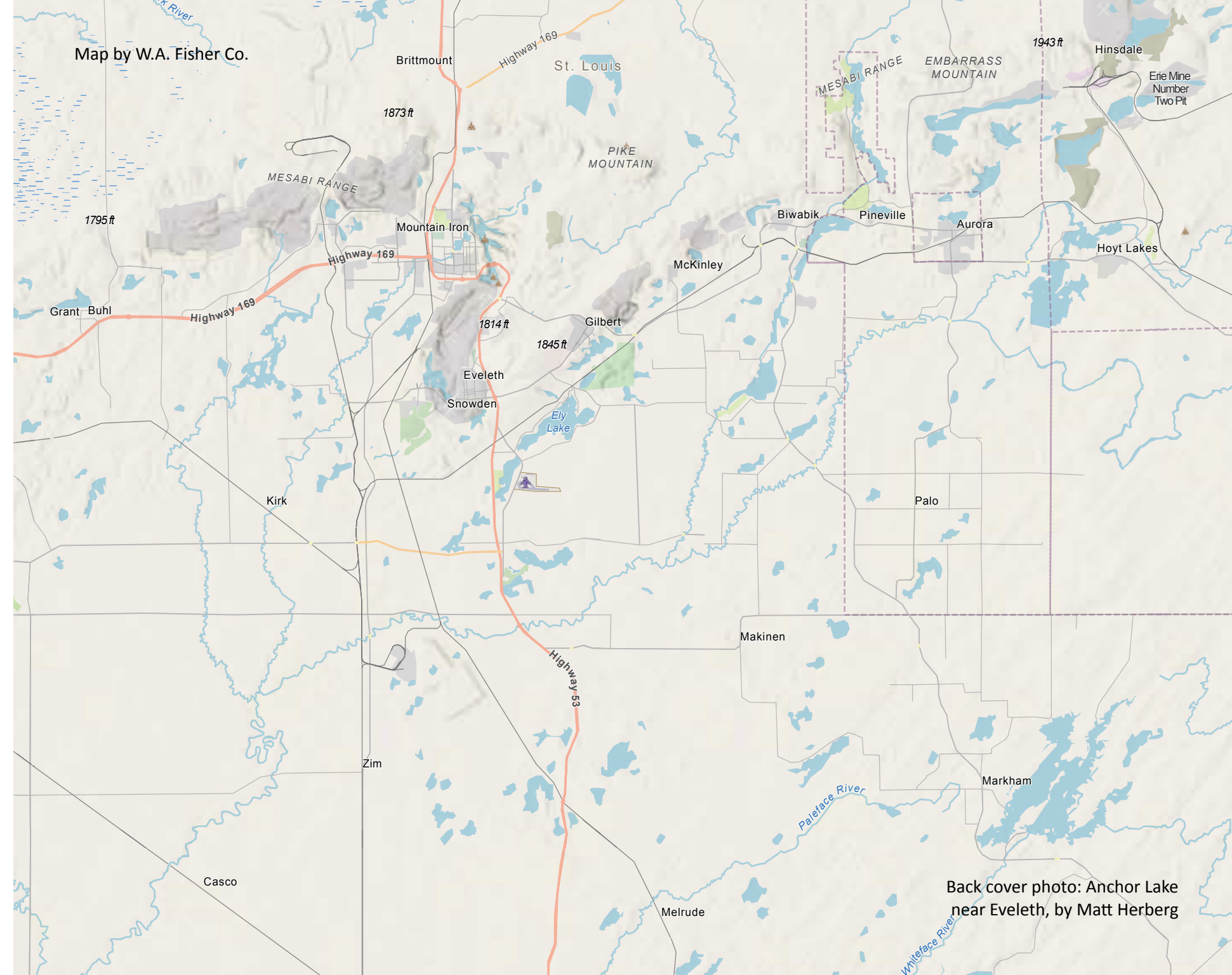


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