

## Mineland Reclamation: Fish Stocking



- There are numerous “mine pit” lakes across northeastern Minnesota. All of them are former iron mines that over time naturally filled with water. The mine pits at one time produced iron ore which was turned into steel that helped build America.
- The bodies of water are up to hundreds of feet deep and bordered by nearly all solid rock. The water is clear, cool and clean.
- Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation, in partnership with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), began stocking the open pit lakes in 1984 as part of its mineland reclamation work.
- In 2022 Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation stocked four area lakes with approximately 6,000 rainbow trout totaling 2,800 pounds. The fish are about one-third to three-quarters of a pound each. Lakes included: - Kinney Pit, Kinney. - Mott Pit, Mountain Iron. - St. James Pit, Aurora. - Tioga Pit, Cohasset.
- The open pit mines are popular among trout enthusiasts, anglers and families. The lakes are a part of the local quality of life and the region’s tourism.

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation provides funding to assist with highly visible development and restoration of mining-impacted lands in northeastern Minnesota.