



OSM/VISTA Daniel Boone Soil and Water Conservation District, VA

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The first OSM/VISTA at the Daniel Boone Soil and Water Conservation District (DBSWCD) began service last May. The most important thing she has learned thus far is you have to search and find those members of the community (both residents and members of agencies) that recognize the problems in the area and are willing to spend their free time finding solutions. These people are the key to the success of any project.



She is currently working on several important projects, including the illegal dump site issue in Lee County. She also has five stream sites from which she is collecting data, such as pH, flow data and water samples. This data will determine whether these sites are causing negative effects on the watershed and need close attention.

Right now, she is working on an illegal dump site assessment, consisting of an inventory of each dump site in the county, as well as using a GPS unit to plot each site on a map for future reference. She is working with watershed citizens in an effort to gain assistance on this project. Canaan Valley Institute is planning a Litter Summit, during

which counties from all over the state will meet and discuss the severity of illegal dump sites and ways to diminish their existence.

The OSM/VISTA is also working on an acid mine drainage (AMD) inventory, with help from Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy (DMME) office. One of the biggest projects has been writing a grant proposal to OSM for installation of an AMD passive treatment facility (wetland). In 1997, a closed mine 'blew out,' which means that water had built up so



much since the mine's close that it blew out the side of the mountain. This blow out sent huge amounts of acidic water into nearby streams and killed all fish in the immediate area. Emergency repairs were made soon after the blow out, but there has been no permanent solution thus far. The passive treatment facility we are hoping to install will utilize specific plants to remove heavy metals and raise the pH of the water to suitable levels before the water enters a tributary of the Powell River.



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