

# News Release

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement  
A Bureau of the U. S. Department of the Interior



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Interior's OSMRE Provides Nearly \$1 Million in Conservation Funding to Restore Watersheds in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia

**Washington, DC** – The Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) has awarded approximately \$1 million in cooperative agreements to non-profit watershed restoration groups in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

The funds, part of OSMRE's Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program (WCAP), provide supplemental financial assistance to non-profit watershed restoration groups and other non-profit organizations for the construction of acid mine drainage (AMD) treatment facilities that help restore the biological health of local streams.

“The vital work being done in conjunction with partners to restore the usability of abandoned mine lands is yet another example of Interior's multiple-use mission of conservation in action,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke.**

Five non-profit organizations across Appalachia will share the funding for work on ten AMD projects selected through the merit review process for federal funding opportunities. WCAP grants result in partnerships that encourage long-term commitment to projects through engagement with local communities and environmental conservation.

Between 1999 and 2017, OSMRE awarded 299 cooperative agreement grants totaling nearly \$27 million. With a contribution ratio of 2.5 to 1, approximately \$65 million has been leveraged from additional sources to further the cleanup of streams affected by AMD.

The following watershed projects will benefit from this round of OSMRE WCAP grants:

### **Ohio**

#### ***\$200,000 - Ilesboro Road***

This project will eliminate and reclaim 34 acres of abandoned coal mining spoil piles that are severely depositing material into the West Branch of Raccoon Creek, causing degraded water quality, siltation and down-stream flooding.



# OSMRE News Release continued

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## **Pennsylvania**

### ***\$100,000 - Big Run Enhancement***

This project, located in Pennsylvania's Blackleggs Creek Watershed, will rehabilitate an existing AMD treatment system to assure its continuing efficient operation and improve water quality in support of a trout fishery.

### ***\$100,000 - Hayes Run***

This project, located in Pennsylvania's Little Toby Creek Watershed, will rehabilitate an existing AMD treatment system to assure its continuing efficient operation for years to come and support a trout fishery.

### ***\$23,500 - Howe Bridge Rehabilitation***

This project, in Pennsylvania's Mill Creek Watershed, will rehabilitate an existing AMD treatment system to assure its continuing efficient operation and maintaining improved water quality in Mill Creek to support a warm water fishery.

### ***\$54,755 - Filson 1 and 2 Rehabilitation***

This project, also located in Pennsylvania's Mill Creek Watershed, will rehabilitate an existing AMD treatment system to assure its continuing efficient operation and maintain improved water quality in support a warm water fishery.

### ***\$89,200 - Kyler Run Anoxic Limestone Drain #1 (ALD1) Rehabilitation***

This project, located in Pennsylvania's Little Toby Creek Watershed, will rehabilitate an existing AMD treatment system to assure its continuing efficient operation for years to come, thereby, maintaining improved water quality in Kyler Run and Little Toby Creek to support a trout fishery.

### ***\$82,000 - Kyler Run Anoxic Limestone Drain #2 (ALD2) Rehabilitation***

Also located in Pennsylvania's Little Toby Creek Watershed, this project will rehabilitate an existing AMD treatment system and assure continued efficient operation for years to come. The result will maintain improved water quality and support local trout.

## **West Virginia**

### ***\$100,000 - Sandy Run***

This project was originally constructed over 10 years ago but has not been treating AMD effectively. The new project will renovate five AMD treatment ponds on a three-acre site. The newer treatment method will involve the completion of a passive AMD treatment system that will accomplish two primary goals:

- Decrease the loads of acidity, iron, and aluminum so that segments of Kanawha Creek located upstream of the Upper Deckers Creek impoundment #5 are no longer impaired; and
- Decrease the contaminants flowing downstream through Kanawha Creek and Deckers Creek, resulting in lower pollutant levels.



## OSMRE News Release continued

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### ***\$99,900 - Swamp Run #2***

The project, located on a three-acre site, involves the installation of a passive AMD treatment system that will reduce acid and metal loads entering Swamp Run, a tributary of the Buckhannon River, by 80 percent. This reduction in load will allow this tributary to meet the State's total daily maximum load requirements.

### ***\$93,600 - Valley Highwall #3 Upgrade***

This project is located on a one-acre site that consists of an active lime dosing unit that was installed several years ago. Although effective in treating AMD, the iron precipitant produced by the treatment system does not have the proper area for mixing and settling. The system, consequently, had to be taken off line. The WCAP funding will allow for the treatment facility to become operational once again with the installation of a new technology that will address the mixing and settling issue, as well as lower maintenance costs for the AMD treatment system.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) carries out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 in cooperation with states and tribes. OSMRE's objectives are to ensure that coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, to ensure that the land is restored to beneficial use after mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

