

## Watershed Operations

April, 2009

## Deckers Creek Acid Mine Drainage, West Virginia

### Introduction

Large-scale coal mining started in the Deckers Creek watershed at the turn of the twentieth century creating conditions contributing to acid mine drainage and degraded the water quality of the creek.



The Deckers Creek Acid Mine Drainage Remediation Project is located in Preston and Monongalia Counties, West Virginia.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administrations plans to modernize the nations infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging food control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

### Project Description

‡ **Location:** Preston and Monongalia Counties, West Virginia 1st Congressional District

‡ **ARRA & FY** \$4,885,000

The Deckers Creek Acid Mine Drainage Remediation Project will treat acid mine drainage from four mining sites. The project will install a series of structures such as open limestone channels, limestone ponds, and settlement ponds as well as erosion and sediment control practices.

### Partners

- ‡ USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ‡ Monongahela Conservation District
- ‡ West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation
- ‡ West Virginia Conservation Agency

### Benefits

Most of the abandoned deep mines along Deckers Creek produce acid drainage that seeps into the abandoned mine workings until the mine pool rises above the level of the creek. Some of the most severely impacted reaches of stream flow through the city of Morgantown. Improving the water quality will increase the recreational revenue for the communities along its reaches and reduce public health problems related to people coming in contact with the water.



Deckers Creek has milky to reddish tones.

