



**Looking Back on a Decade of the
West Branch Susquehanna
Restoration Initiative
2004-2014**

**Amy Wolfe
Trout Unlimited
Director**

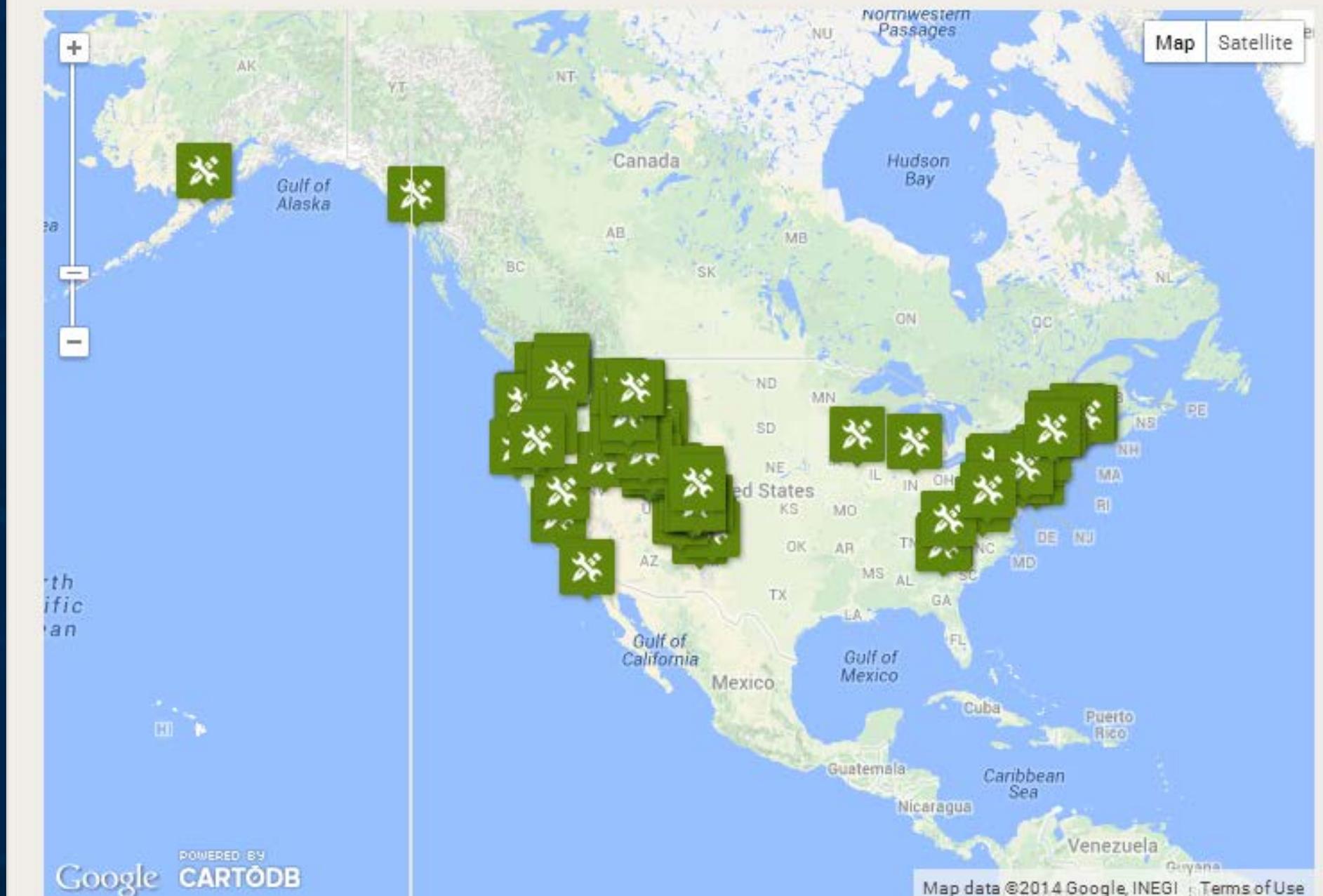
**Eastern Abandoned Mine Program &
PA Eastern Brook Trout Habitat Initiative
April 2014**



Mission

To conserve, protect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

Project Finder



>150,000 members • 400+ chapters • 200+ staff • 30 offices nationwide

West Branch Susquehanna Watershed



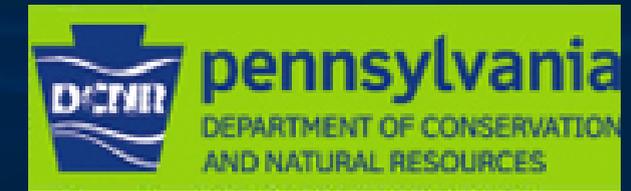
West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Initiative

West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Initiative - The Beginning

2002-2003



2004



West Branch Susquehanna River Task Force

Mission

To restore water resources impacted by abandoned mine lands and mine drainage within the West Branch Susquehanna River basin, ultimately improving the quality of life for those living in and visiting the watershed.

West Branch Susquehanna River Watershed

State of the Watershed Report

Completed by the West Branch Susquehanna River Task Force



February 11, 2005



Goal #1. Develop a comprehensive assessment and restoration plan for the West Branch Susquehanna watershed, with a primary focus on abandoned mine lands and mine drainage.



Publication 254
May 2008

West Branch Susquehanna River Task Force

Despite the enormous legacy of pollution from abandoned mine drainage (AMD) in the West Branch Susquehanna Subbasin, there has been mounting support and enthusiasm for a fully restored watershed. Under the leadership of Governor Edward G. Rendell and with support from Trout Unlimited, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty established the West Branch Susquehanna River Task Force (Task Force) in 2004.

The goal of the Task Force is to assist and advise the department and its partners as they work toward the long-term goal to remediate the region's AMD.

The Task Force is comprised of state, federal, and regional agencies, Trout Unlimited, and other conservation and watershed organizations (members are identified by their logos on the back page). It first convened on September 10, 2004, and among its early actions, the Task Force recognized the need for a comprehensive AMD remediation strategy for the West Branch Susquehanna Subbasin.

West Branch Susquehanna Subbasin AMD Remediation Strategy: Background, Data Assessment and Method Development

INTRODUCTION

The West Branch Susquehanna Subbasin, draining a 6,978-square-mile area in northcentral Pennsylvania, is the largest of the six major subbasins in the Susquehanna River Basin (Figure 1).

The West Branch Susquehanna Subbasin is one of extreme contrasts. While it has some of the Commonwealth's most pristine and treasured waterways, including 1,249 miles of Exceptional Value streams and scenic forestlands and mountains, it also unfortunately bears the legacy of past unregulated mining. With 1,205 miles of waterways impaired by AMD, it is the most AMD-impaired region of the entire Susquehanna River Basin (Figure 2).

At its most degraded sites, the West Branch Susquehanna River contains acidity concentrations of nearly 200 milligrams per liter (mg/l), and iron and aluminum concentrations of more than 17 and nearly 27 mg/l, respectively. Instream loadings of iron and aluminum downstream of Moshannon Creek – the most AMD-impacted West Branch Susquehanna Subbasin tributary – are more than 7,000 tons/year and nearly 5,000 tons/year, respectively.

Products and Tools of the West Branch Susquehanna Subbasin AMD Remediation Strategy

All the water quality data collected for this project are organized in a geodatabase that allows the user to view the data geographically with a combination of layers, including abandoned mine land features, impaired stream segments, regional geology, regional land use, political and watershed boundaries, and others.

This geodatabase, in combination with spreadsheet tools, can be manipulated by the user to simulate treatment for single or clusters of AMD discharges. This process can be used to calculate instream concentration and loading projections for post-discharge treatment. This technique allows the user to predict potential improvements after restoration strategies are completed, which can be helpful when prioritizing projects.

This report contains demonstrations on the use of these tools to determine potential remediation strategies for the West Branch Susquehanna Subbasin.

Pristine setting along the West Branch Susquehanna River.

Abandoned mine lands in Clearfield County.

Acid Mine Drainage

A Report Produced by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission in Partnership with the West Branch Susquehanna River Task Force.

For More Information, Contact:
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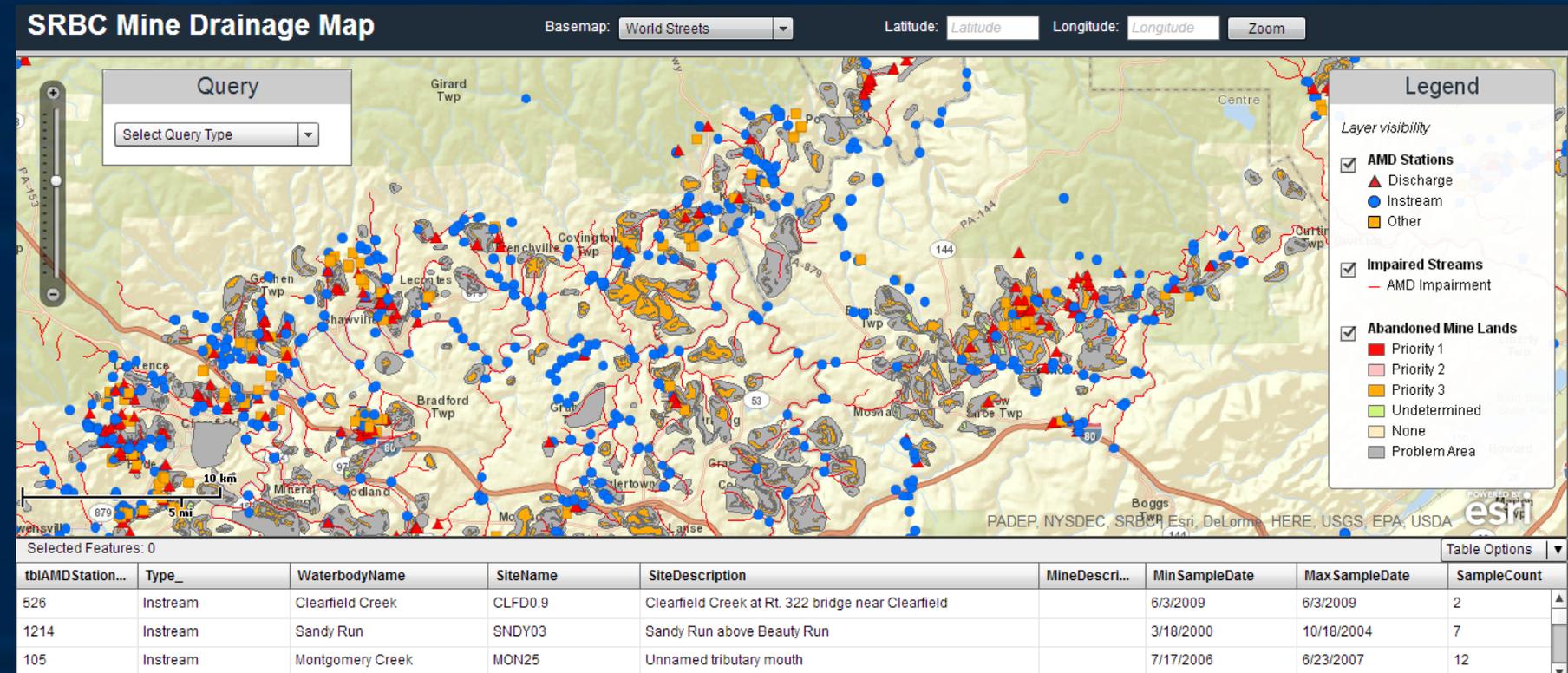


Goal #2. Provide support and technical assistance for efforts to address AMD within the West Branch Susquehanna watershed, with an initial emphasis on the completion of projects underway in the Bennett Branch Sinnemahoning and Kettle Creek watersheds.

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Trout Unlimited
AMD Technical
Assistance



SRBC Mine Drainage Portal

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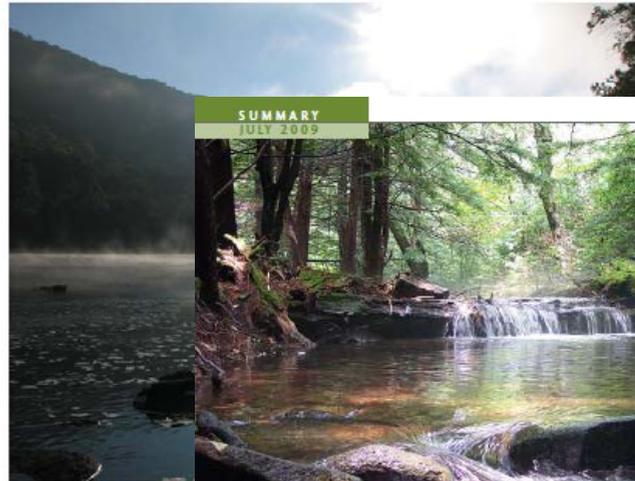
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Goal #3. Build public support within the West Branch Susquehanna watershed for a broad restoration effort.



AN ECONOMIC BENEFIT ANALYSIS FOR ABANDONED MINE DRAINAGE REMEDIATION IN THE WEST BRANCH SUSQUEHANNA RIVER WATERSHED, PENNSYLVANIA



July 3, 2008

Submitted to:
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West Branch Susquehanna
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Submitted by:
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219 Wall Street
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Evan Hansen, Alan Collins,
Alyse Shrecongost, Rob St...

Cleaning Up Abandoned Mine Drainage

in the West Branch Susquehanna Watershed

► WHY IT MAKES ECONOMIC SENSE



SUMMARY October 2011

The West Branch Susquehanna
**A WATERSHED
IN RECOVERY**

And Contributing Aut...



Goal #4. Secure adequate funding to carry out a West Branch restoration initiative.

Since 2004 more than \$113 million has been invested by DEP and other state and federal agencies, Foundation for PA Watersheds, private industry, and others on land reclamation and water treatment.



West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition

Mission

To promote public awareness and stimulate efforts to restore water resources impacted by AML and AMD within the West Branch Susquehanna River basin, ultimately improving the quality of life for those living in and visiting the watershed.

21 volunteer/conservation organizations

21 TU chapters

8 county conservation districts

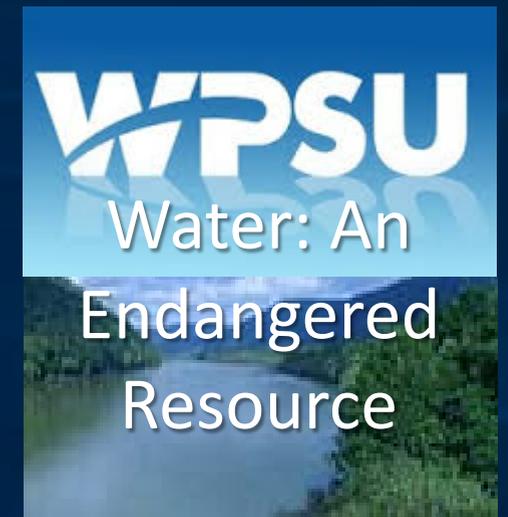
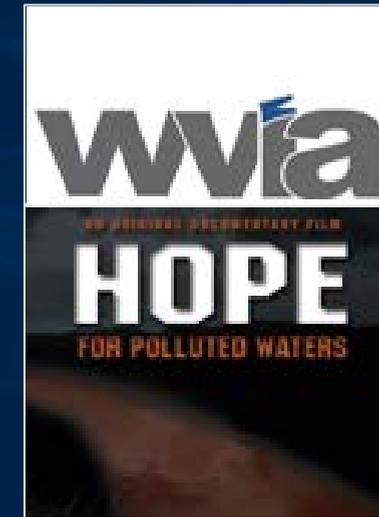
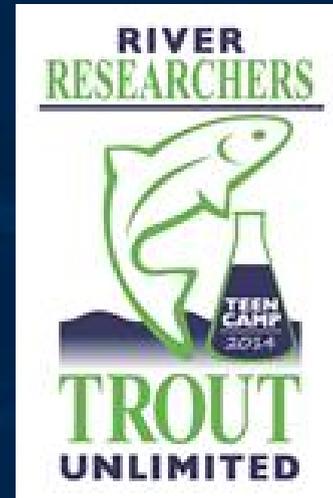
1 municipality

10 businesses

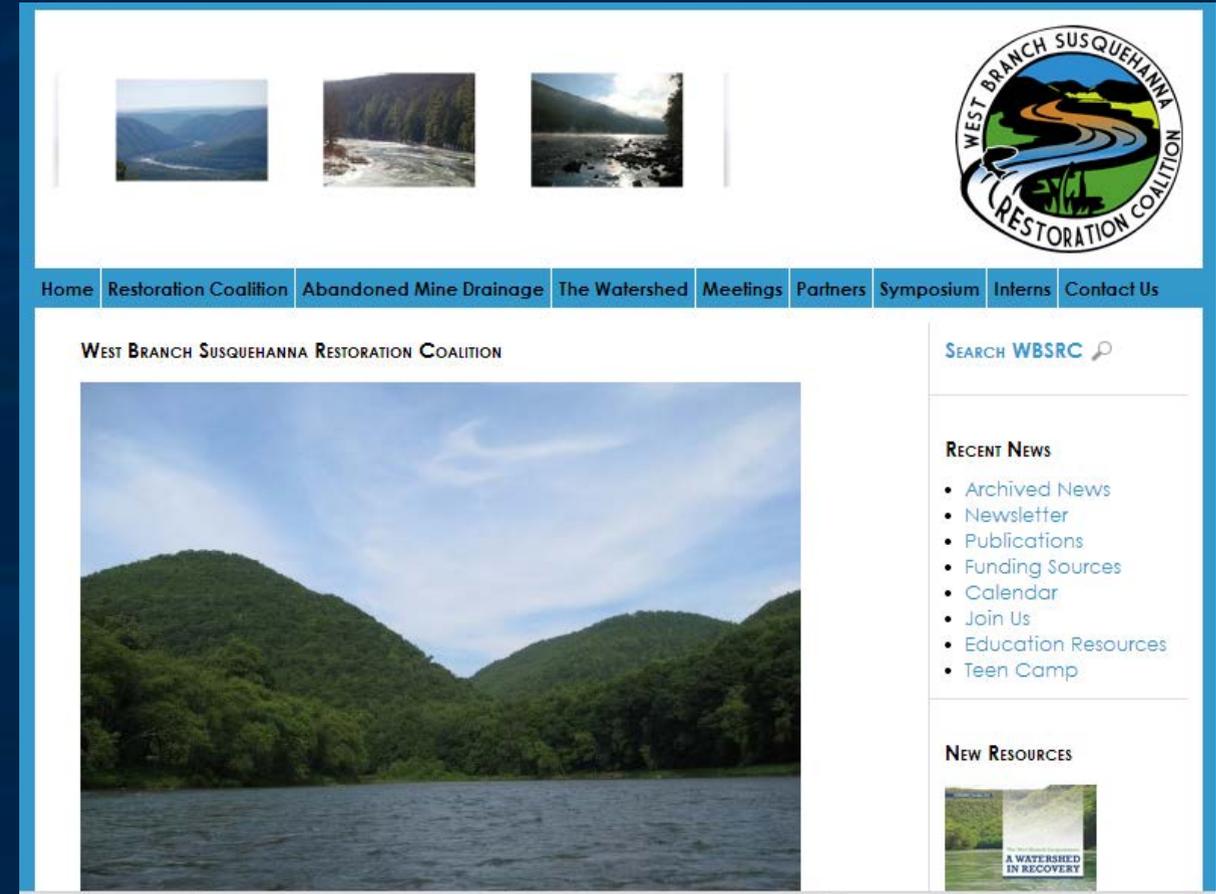
61 WBSRC members

and 1 supporting organization (not MOU signatory)

Goal #1. Build local grassroots and public support through positive educational efforts.



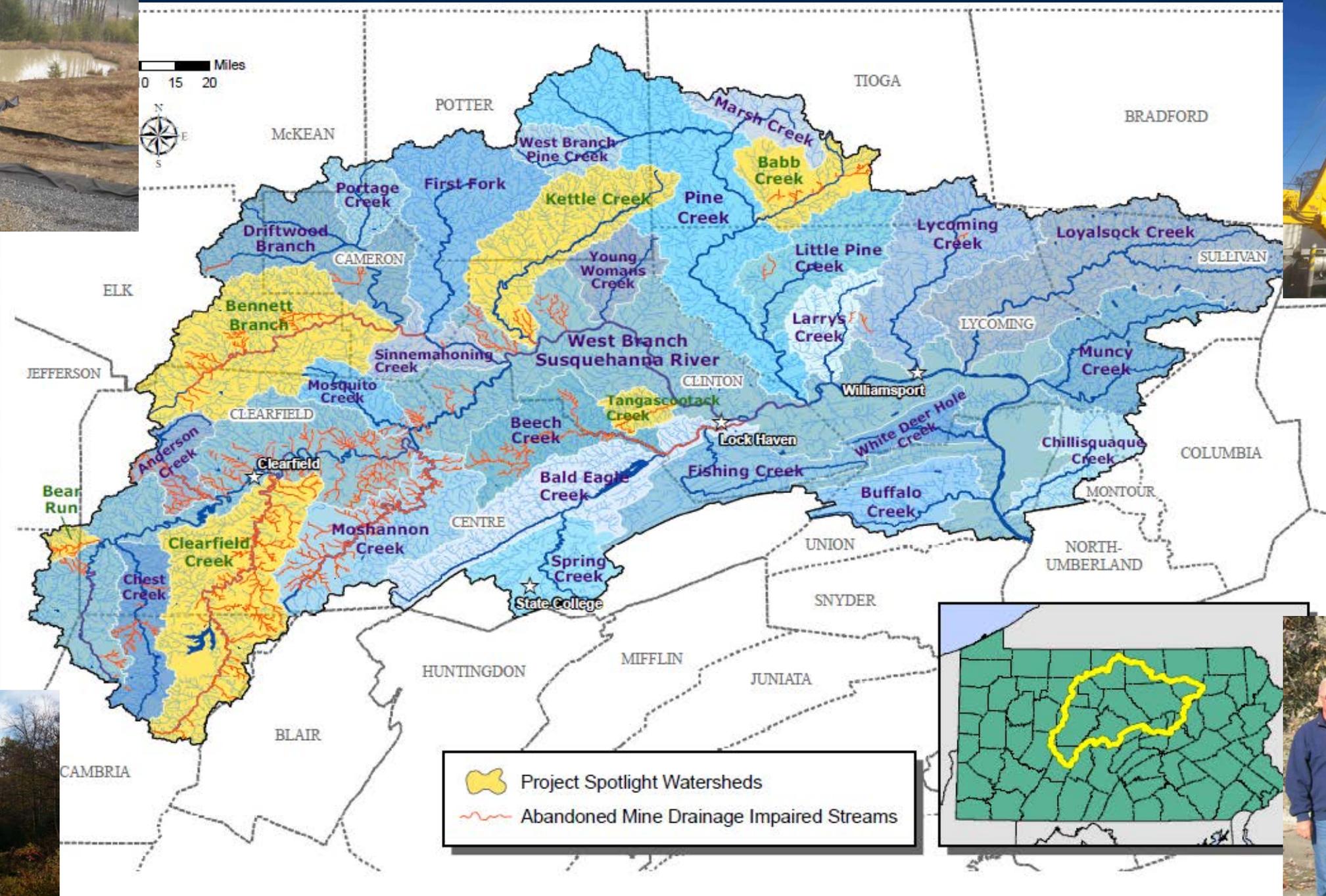
Goal #2. Provide a forum for the communication and exchange of information on restoration activities within the watershed.



www.wbsrc.org

Goal #3. Promote public awareness of the economic benefits of restoration efforts.





Fish Catch Increases on the River (2009)

