

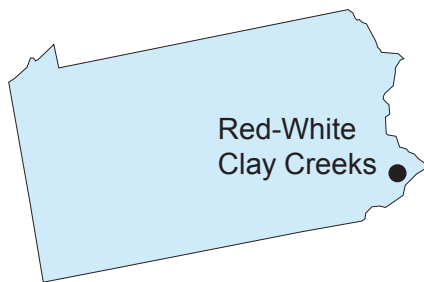
Watershed Operations

April 2009

Improving Water Quality in the Red-White Clay Creeks, Pennsylvania and Delaware

Introduction

This watershed project will improve water quality, restore aquatic habitat, and improve domestic and livestock water supplies. It will also provide an estimated average annual economic benefit of \$100,000.



Site of the Red-White Clay Creeks, Pennsylvania and Delaware

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood 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:** Chester County, PA and New Castle County, DE
16th Congressional District (PA) and 1st Congressional District (DE)
- **Federal Funding:** \$430,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$80,000

This project will treat agriculture-related contaminants, primarily from mushroom production.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Chester County Conservation District
- Ne Stoud Water Research Center
- Christina River Basin Task Force
- Red Clay Valley Association with Castle Conservation District

Benefits

This project will improve seven miles of stream, reduce significant amounts of soil erosion deposits, and properly manage agricultural wastes. Installation of the planned conservation practices will improve public health and safety, along with enhancing visual and aesthetic values. The bog turtle habitat and other fish and wildlife habitat will thrive. This project will sustain and protect important farmland, increase biodiversity, improve livestock health, increase property values, and add to local tourism.



This mushroom wharf runoff waste storage facility with aeration treatment will be recycled to make mushroom substrate and keep contaminants out of the Red-White Clay Creeks.

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Economic Opportunities

The funds will accelerate implementation of the Red-White Clay creeks project and will create or save jobs in the area. Most of the jobs will directly benefit the local economy. In addition, the project will generate revenue for privately-owned businesses through increased sales of farm supplies, construction materials, equipment, parts and services. The total input to the local economy is estimated at more than \$500,000.

Statewide Perspective

Improving water quality and impaired streams, restoring aquatic habitat, and protecting ground water from contamination are high priorities in Pennsylvania and Delaware. The project especially adds value to the Pennsylvania economy by assuring a productive, sustainable mushroom industry, which provides more than 60 percent of the national volume of mushrooms. The project supports and complements the ongoing efforts of the Delaware River Basin Commission, Christina River Basin, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Program, and the Coastal Zone Management Plan.

For More Information

USDA, NRCS
One Credit Union Place, Ste. 340
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-2993
Phone: 717-237-2100
www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov



Mushroom substrate processing area in need of waste runoff collection and storage measures. ARRA funds will accelerate implementation of these and other related watershed projects.

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