

# Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement (OSM)



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**U.S. Department of the Interior**

# OSM in Community Development



Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program



Oversight of AML eligible  
reclamation projects  
Water Supply projects



Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative

A photograph of a stream with brown water, a fallen log, and a rocky bank with green vegetation. The water is a muddy brown color, and the bank is covered in green grasses and bushes. A large log lies across the stream, partially submerged. The background shows a dense forest with green trees and bushes.

Watershed  
Cooperative  
Agreement  
Program

# Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program

- Began in 1999 to provide funds to non-profit organizations to help address acid mine drainage
- Funds provided by OSM, up to \$100,000 directly to the watershed group, for construction of AMD projects
- 13 States eligible for funding



# WCAP REQUIREMENTS

- Sites must be AML eligible
- Partner based – the more the better
- Must be combined with other funds - must “make the difference” in the project being constructed
- Must submit application for funding



# FUNDING PARTNERS

- State SMCRA Partners (DEP, DMLR, DNR...) - AML funds
- State EPA Agencies -Division of Water -EPA 319 Funds
- CORPS/NRCS/USFS/EPA/Govt. agencies
- Miscellaneous grants (Growing Greener, Trout Unlimited, various foundations)
- In Kind Services VOLUNTEERS
- Mitigation Funding





# The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative



Restoring healthy productive forests on mined land



Since 2004...  
about 70 million trees have been planted  
on about 103,000 acres

# 4 yrs of ARRI's work on legacy mines...



- 530,000 trees
  - 920 acres
- 4,163 volunteers
- 45 sites in 7 states



# A New Direction

(Backward Working)

**≈1 million acres of reclaimed grass/shrub lands in Appalachia**



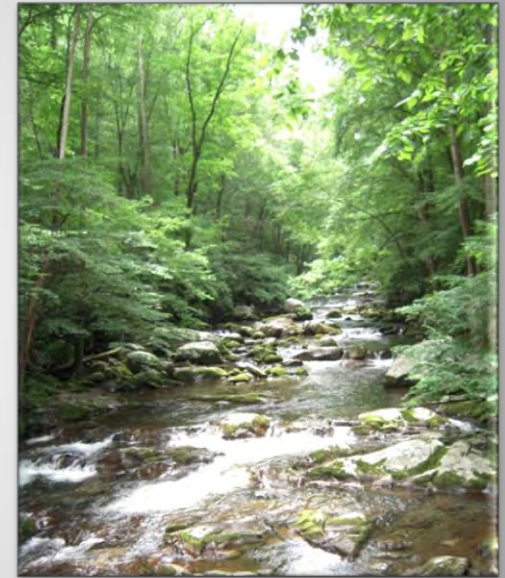
green  
forests  
work

- CCC modeled program to stimulate economy and improve the environment
- Plant millions of trees on thousands of acres of barren mine land
- Create much needed “green” jobs in Appalachia

# Green Forests Work

(Investing in America)

- ....to mitigate climate change,
- ....to improve water quality,
- ....to restore habitat,
- ....to create economic opportunities,
- ....to empower Appalachian citizens.



# Green Forests Work

## (Gaining Momentum)

2009:

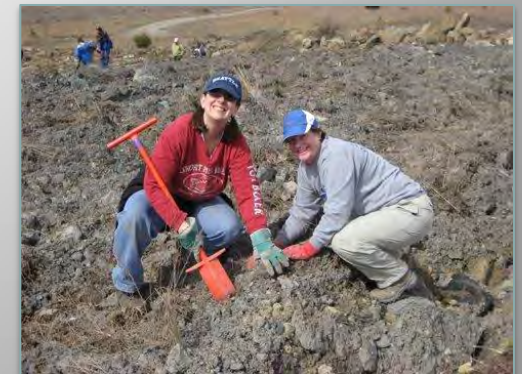
- 40 acres on 10 sites
- 28,000 trees
- 500 volunteers+ no funding

2010:

- 200 acres on 17 sites
- 140,000 trees
- 2,000 volunteers + little funding

2011:

- 680 acres on 18 sites
- 500,000 trees
- 1,700 volunteers + more funding



Appalachian Regional Commission  
~\$1,000,000 grant  
Funding for Green Forests Work



*planting for the future*



*...one tree at a time*

green  
forests  
work

[www.greenforestswork.org](http://www.greenforestswork.org)



The Appalachian Coal Country Team (ACCT)  
An OSM/VISTA Initiative  
[www.coalcountryteam.org](http://www.coalcountryteam.org)



**Community  
Watershed Groups**

# The Appalachian Coal Country Team (ACCT)

## An OSM/VISTA Initiative

[www.coalcountryteam.org](http://www.coalcountryteam.org)

### Appalachian Coal Country Team (ACCT):

- Founded in 2002
- Assist rural communities impacted by pre-regulatory environmental degradation and its consequences in making their homelands healthier places to live and work.
- Place college-educated OSM/VISTA Volunteers with community/watershed organizations for 1 year.
- Provide support and training for OSM/VISTAs and their Supervisors
- Serve: PA, OH, MD, WV, VA, KY, TN, AL
- Currently 17 ACCT OSM/VISTAs in the field





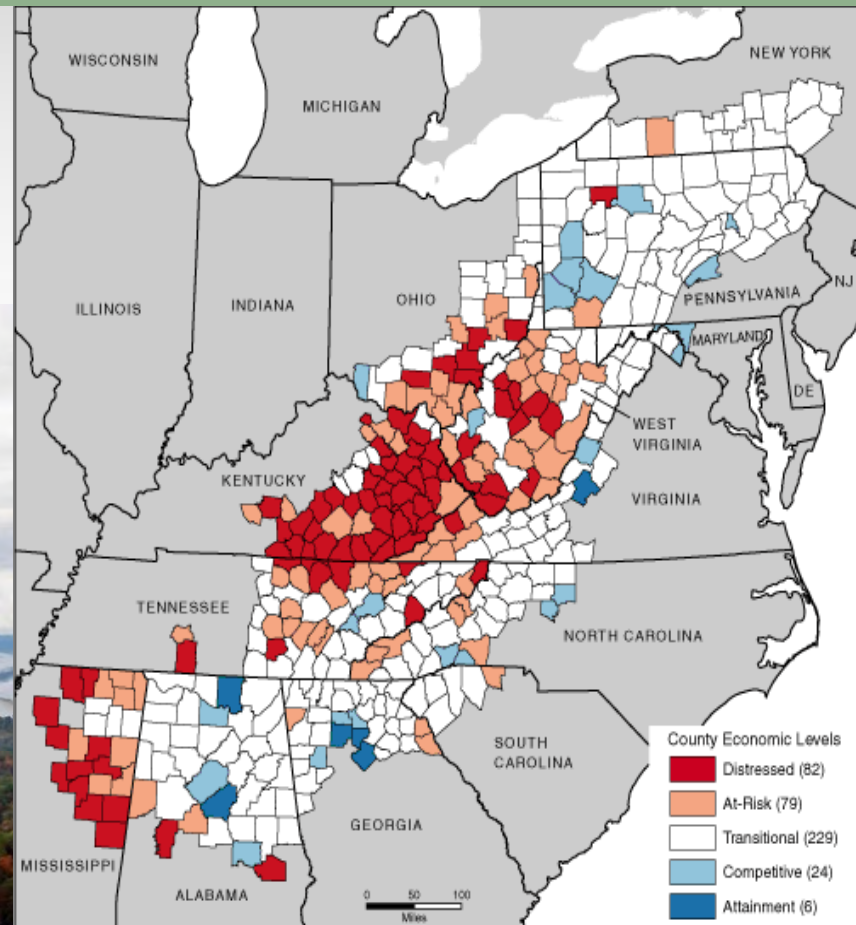
## Core Goals

1. Capacity Building
2. Economic Development
3. Environmental Stewardship
4. Education and Outreach
5. Professional Development

# The Appalachian Coal Country Team (ACCT)

## An OSM/VISTA Initiative

[www.coalcountryteam.org](http://www.coalcountryteam.org)



# Applied Science Reports

**OSM TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**  
**APPLIED SCIENCE**  
FINAL REPORT FACT SHEET

USDOI Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

*"OSM publishes Applied Science Final Report Fact Sheets as part of its technology transfer function to inform interested parties about results from completed Applied Science Projects funded by OSM. The completed reports can be found at our website: [www.techtransfer.osmre.gov/](http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov/)"*

**DEVELOPMENT OF A RAPID GEOMORPHIC ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE TO SUPPORT THE CHIA/PHC PROCESS: A FOCUS ON MODEL IMPROVEMENT FOR ESTIMATING SEDIMENT LOADS**

Dr. Jaka S. Schwartz and Dr. Eric C. Drumm  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Project Description and Objectives:**

This project was designed to develop testing methods, classification techniques, and modeling procedures useful for the evaluation or prediction of impacts resulting from land-use disturbances in large rural watersheds typical of the Appalachian coalfields. The primary objective was to identify tools which could be used by regulators or other resource management groups to assess cumulative sediment loading and changes in stream channel stability resulting from existing or proposed land-use alterations. The study area was located in the New River watershed of Tennessee, a principal water course that drains to the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area.

**Applicability to Mining and Reclamation:**

Siltation and habitat alteration have been identified as the principal cause of stream-use impairment in the United States. Change in siltation or sedimentation rates in receiving streams result from multiple land use and resource extraction activities including logging, mining, oil and gas development, agriculture, recreational vehicle traffic, and runoff from unimproved roadways. The results of this project could be useful to natural resource agencies and/or private companies that extract or manage land, water, and mineral resources. The study identifies a land-use classification system useful for rural landscapes and statistically correlates these land-use activities to stream particle size distributions which can be measured in the field using rapid geomorphic assessment techniques (RGA) described in the document. The (RGA) method is a useful tool for determining when

Continued on back...

[www.techtransfer.osmre.gov/](http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov/)

**Native Photo:** Collecting suspended solids data from an area stream following a precipitation event.

**Native Photo:** Digital elevation grid and hydrologic stream network showing the portion of various RGA-activities.

<http://www.techtransfer.osmre.gov/NTTMainSite/appliedscience/AScompleted.htm>

# Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation



# Title IV – AML

- West Virginia's distribution from AML fee collections for FY 2011 was **\$51,355,533.53**
- FY 2011 Budget eliminated AML Federal Emergency Program Funding effective October 1, 2010. Emergency projects are now funded from annual AML fee collection distribution to West Virginia DEP.

# Abandoned Mine Land Projects





# Title IV AML Highlights in WV

WVDEP is involved in numerous projects greatly beneficial to the public. Highlights for the WVDEP AML Project in EY 2011 include:

- Declared and completed 33 emergency projects
- Completed 45 high priority projects and submitted 56 new projects to OSM.
- Awarded six new domestic waterline projects, providing water to approximately 700 new residential customers.
  - At one point during the year, WVDEP AML had 17 waterline projects under construction with an AML funding commitment of \$43 million.
  - The current list of eligible AML waterline projects consists of 45 projects with a total estimated cost of \$134 million, with the AML share accounting for over \$100 million.

# List of Contacts

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
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