

**How Trout Unlimited's  
FREE  
AMD Technical Assistance Program  
Can Help You**



**Amy G. Wolfe  
Director  
Eastern Abandoned Mine Program**






Mission is to conserve, protect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.



# Need help with addressing AMD, but don't have the \$\$ ?

- Biological surveys for fish, benthic macroinvertebrates, and habitat
  - Treatment system evaluation and recommendations for improvement
  - Conceptual design plan for treatment system
  - Rapid AMD characterization or watershed snapshot
  - Monitoring plan development
  - Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan development
  - Technical capacity building
  - Others on case-by-case basis
- 
- The background of the slide is a photograph of a natural landscape. In the foreground, there is a body of water, possibly a pond or a small stream, with a dark, possibly black, liner or material visible along its edges. The water is calm and reflects the sky. The middle ground shows a grassy or muddy bank leading up to a dense forest of trees. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is a natural, somewhat desolate landscape, likely related to the environmental issue of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) mentioned in the text.



# Biological surveys for fish, benthic macroinvertebrates, and habitat

A person wearing a cap and a backpack is standing in a stream, using a long yellow tool to probe the water. The background shows a forested area with trees and foliage.

- Electrofishing surveys - PA Fish & Boat Commission protocol
- Benthic macroinvertebrates - DEP Instream Comprehensive Evaluation (ICE) protocol and identified to genus by EcoAnalysts (NABS certified)
- Habitat surveys - DEP ICE protocol
- Fish and bugs useful to establish pre-treatment conditions and monitor post-treatment conditions
- Presence and abundance (or lack thereof) of fish are useful for planning restoration goals
- Habitat assessments help to identify other potential impediments to restoring fish populations



# Biological surveys for fish, benthic macroinvertebrates, and habitat



Moravian Run



Clearfield Creek



Wilson Creek



Buck Run

# Treatment system evaluation and recommendations for improvement

- Individual system components and overall system performance are evaluated
- Recommendations for improvement, or rehabilitation if necessary, are developed
- When possible, specific cost estimates are given
- Caretakers of the treatment system can be trained to properly inspect system, monitor water quality, and identify problems
- Treatment system "autopsies" can be conducted



# Treatment system evaluation and recommendations for improvement



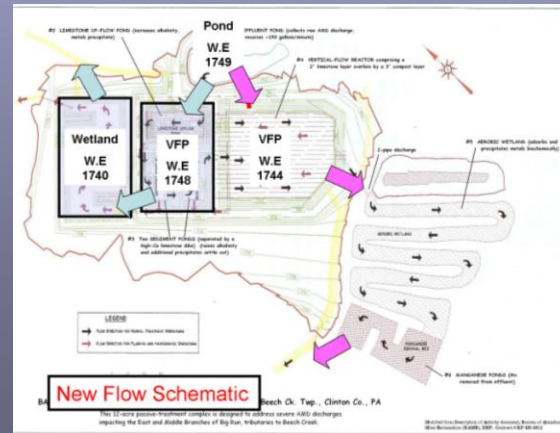
C&K Pit 431



Bear Creek



Markle



Avery Site

# Conceptual design plan for treatment system

- Historical data for discharge(s) to be treated are helpful
- New water quality and flow measurements are collected
- Potential for land reclamation is investigated
- Site topography, landowner cooperation, and access are taken into consideration
- Conceptual design plan includes basic system layout of individual components, general cost estimate, and presentation of other abatement alternatives if available



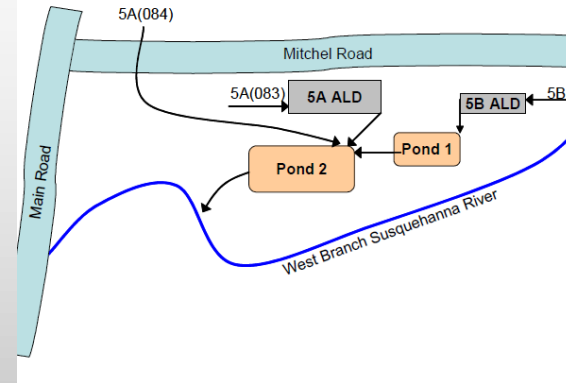
# Conceptual design plan for treatment system



Muddy Run



Espy Run



West Branch



Coal Run



# Rapid AMD characterization or watershed snapshot

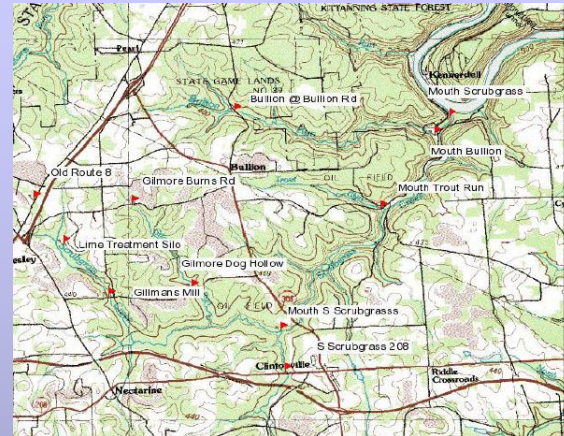
- Characterization of individual or suite of discharge(s)
  - > Locate and identify AMD discharges/sources
  - > Assess impact of AMD on receiving stream and biota
  - > Type and severity of AMD
  - > May include setting up monitoring stations
- One-time snapshot of water quality and flow
  - > Assess metals and acidity loadings on receiving stream
  - > Prioritize discharges for strategic planning
  - > Evaluate post-treatment progress



# Rapid AMD characterization or snapshot



Plum Creek



Scrubgrass Creek



Douglass Run



Moravian Run



# Monitoring plan development

- Identification and prioritization of discharges and instream locations for long-term monitoring
- Assistance with locating sites to install weirs, flumes, etc. for flow monitoring
- Development of monitoring plan, along with maps
- Reevaluation and updating of existing monitoring plan, taking into consideration post-treatment changes and changes in restoration goals



# Monitoring plan development



Black Creek



Chartiers Creek



# Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan development

- Watershed must be located in DEP-approved Qualified Hydrologic Unit (QHU), which requires a restoration plan, to be eligible for Growing Greener and AMD Set-Aside funding

- QHU Plan components

- > Cost-benefit analysis
- > Local support
- > Background data
- > Restoration goals
- > Technological and alternative analysis for projects
- > Benefits of implementing restoration plan
- > Capital \$\$, OM&R requirements/\$\$, Other \$\$ sources



# Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plan development



Babb Creek



Shamokin Creek



# Technical capacity building

- Training to volunteers on proper techniques of water quality sampling, flow measurement, benthic macroinvertebrate sampling/id, etc.
- Assistance with reevaluation of long-term restoration plans and goals, and prioritization of remediation objectives and projects
- Assistance with educational outreach projects to increase community support and understanding of AMD cleanup efforts
- Assistance with finding possible sources of \$\$ for projects
- Assistance with grant/contractual paperwork requirements



# Technical capacity building



Weatherly Planning  
Commission



Moshannon Creek  
Watershed Coalition



Westmoreland  
County Cons. District

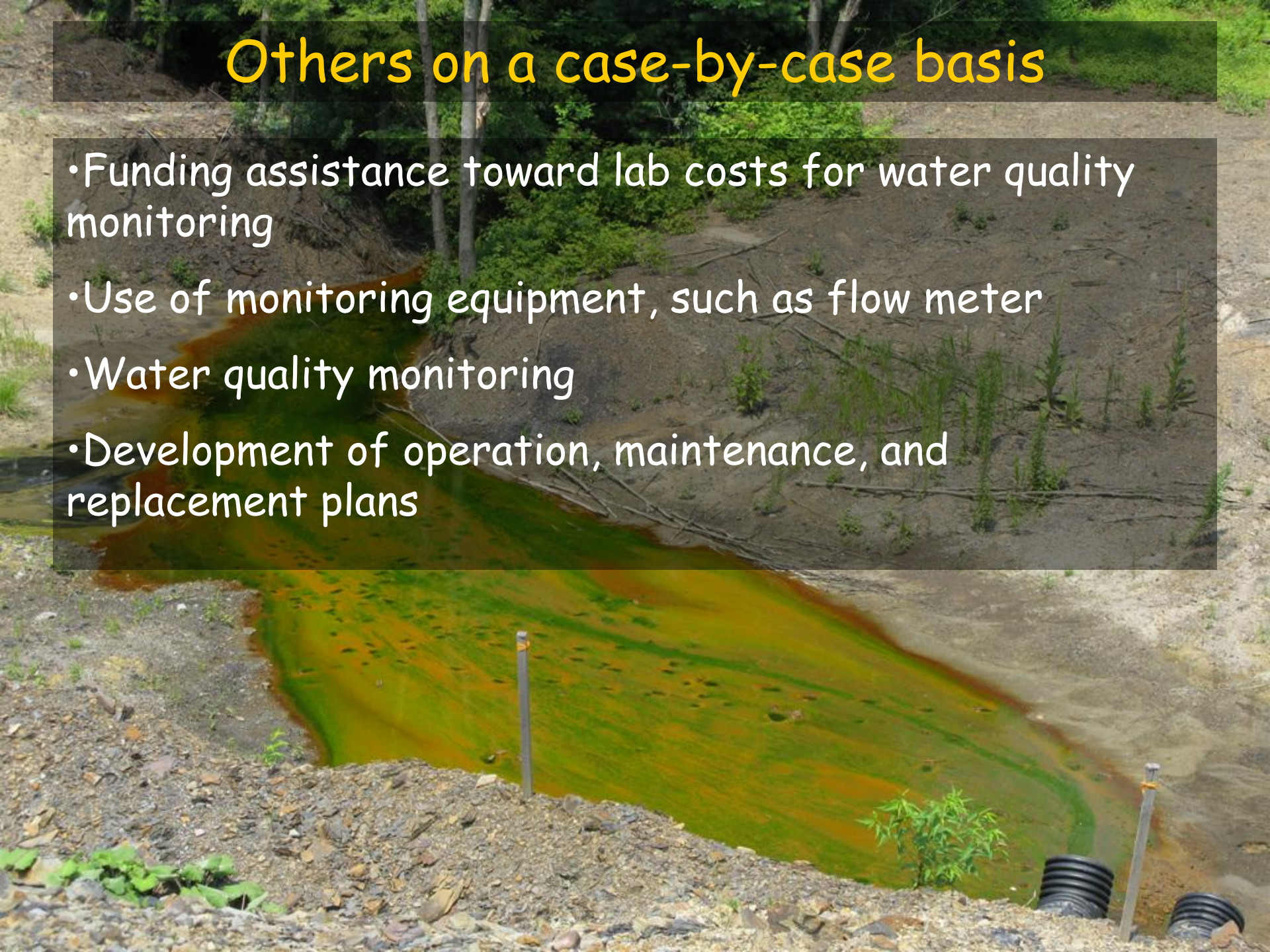


Clinton County Cons.  
District



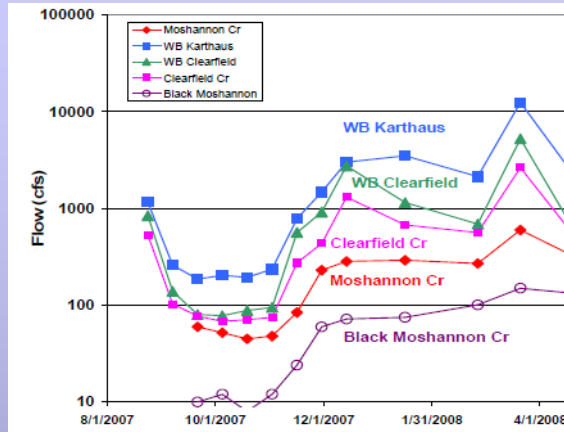
# Others on a case-by-case basis

- Funding assistance toward lab costs for water quality monitoring
- Use of monitoring equipment, such as flow meter
- Water quality monitoring
- Development of operation, maintenance, and replacement plans





# Others on a case-by-case basis



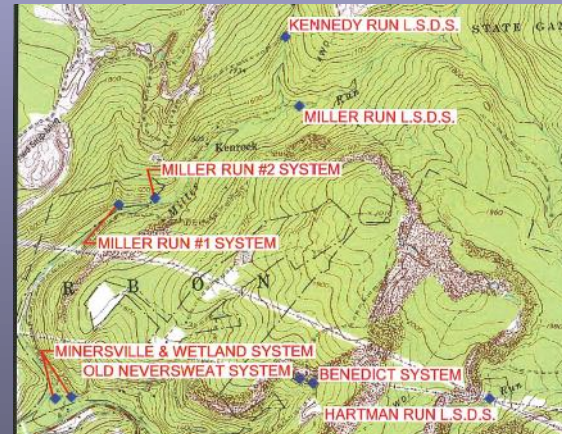
Clearfield Creek Watershed Assoc.



Susquehanna River Basin Commission



DEP BAMR

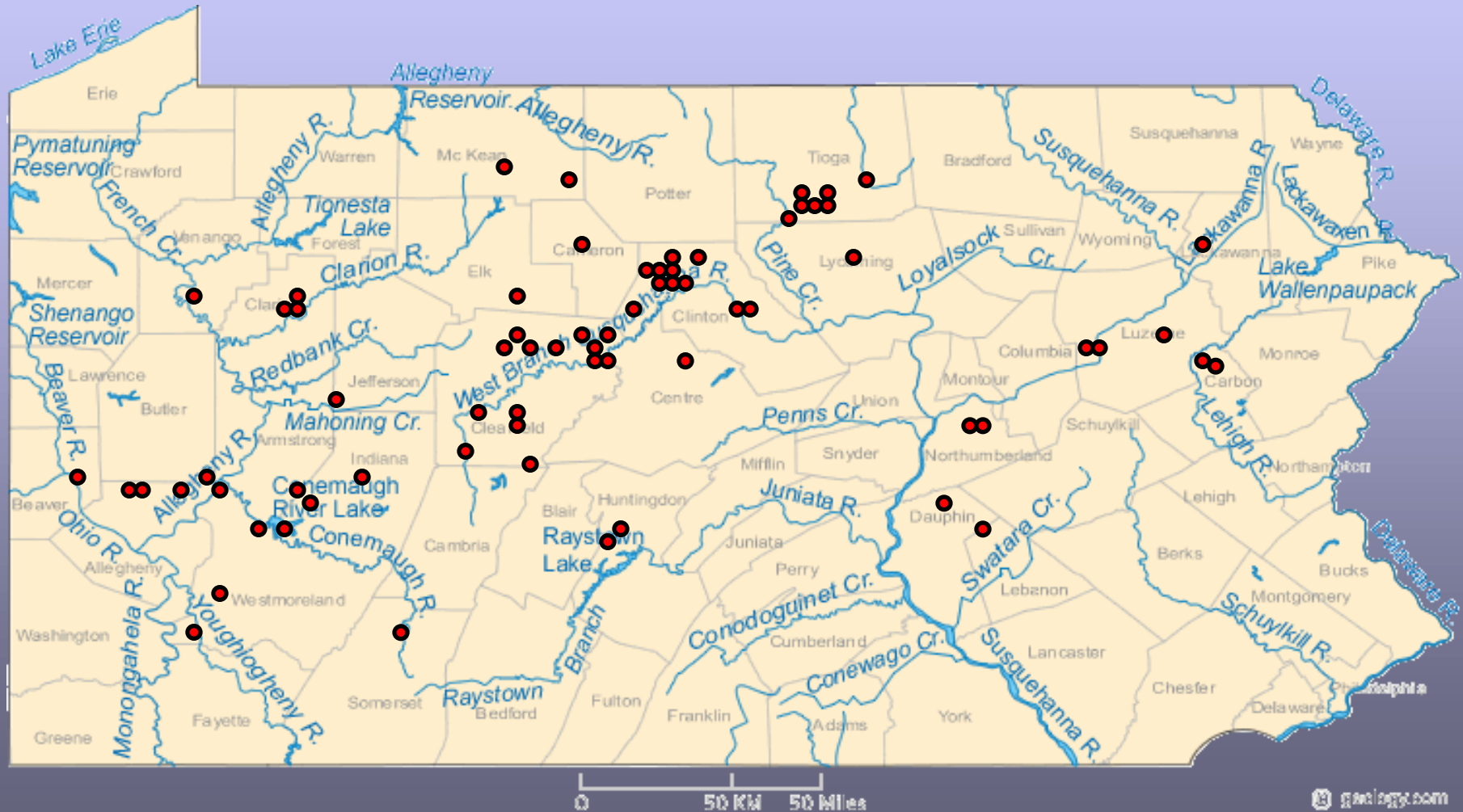


Huntingdon County Cons. District





# AMD Technical Assistance Projects 2005-2011





# Brook Trout Restoration - AMD Mini Grants

## Eligibility

- Watershed groups, conservation districts, and municipalities
- AMD project must be located within West Branch Susquehanna River watershed
- Ultimate goal of project must be to restore native brook trout

## Mini Grant Amount

- Up to \$10,000 per project

## How Does Mini Grant Work?

- TU will pay either pay contractor/consultant/vendor directly or reimburse the grantee for expense

## When/How to Apply

- No deadline; Contact TU directly



# Funding of the Trout Unlimited AMD Technical Assistance Program



**Richard  
King  
Mellon  
Foundation**

## Technical Consultants



# THANK YOU!



Thank You!  
Questions??



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