

# WRI46 Assessing Extent and Longevity of Degradation Following Coal Mining in West Virginia

Annual Report

December 17, 2003

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## Synopsis of Accomplishments:

To date, Tasks 1-6 has been completed, and we are currently working on the final report for task 7. Cross-referencing USFS data with WVDEP information indicated that many of the paired watersheds in the USFS Report had been disturbed since the initial study. With the assistance of Nick Schaer, of the WVDEP, NMLRC staff searched permits and satellite images of potential watersheds to determine applicability to our project. The results indicated that two of the paired watersheds have the potential for use in this study. These watersheds are in Nicholas and Upshur, Counties, WV and range in size from 55 to 207 acres. Site visits to these watersheds have discovered disturbance since the data had been collected and insufficient flow to support benthic communities.

It was then decided that we use an impacted watershed from the USFS report and find an unimpacted watershed that was not used in the initial study for the paring. We were successful in this attempt, as we have used two watersheds in Preston County, WV. The impacted watershed, no. 9212 was mined from 1955 to 1979 and is located in the Valley Point area. The unimpacted watershed is similar in size and is also located in the Valley Point area. Benthic sampling, as well as water sampling, was conducted on Friday, May 23 with representatives of the NMLRC as well as a benthic specialist.

A benthic specialist has been hired as a subcontractor on this project to lead the benthic sampling activities and identify benthic organisms. Our benthic specialist has conducted numerous benthic surveys in Monongalia and Preston Counties, WV.

## Publications

During this period there have been no publications resulting from this research project.

## Information Transfer Activities

The technical reports generated quarterly that are supported with funds from this project are posted on our website at <http://wvri.nrcce.wvu.edu/>.

## Student Worker Summary

Category	USGS WRI Award	NIWR-USGS Internship	Supplemental Awards	Total
Undergrad	2			2
M.S.				
Ph. D.				
Post-Doc.				
Total				

## NIWR-USGS Student Interns

There were no NIWR-USGS student interns on this project.

### **Notable Achievements and Awards**

There were no notable achievements or awards resulting from this work supported by these project funds.