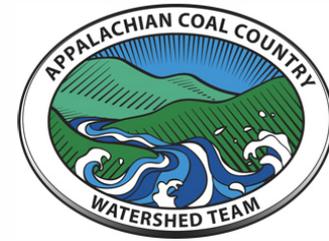


The Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team



An OSM/VISTA Initiative
Helping watershed associations and
their communities from the inside out.

What is the ACCWT?



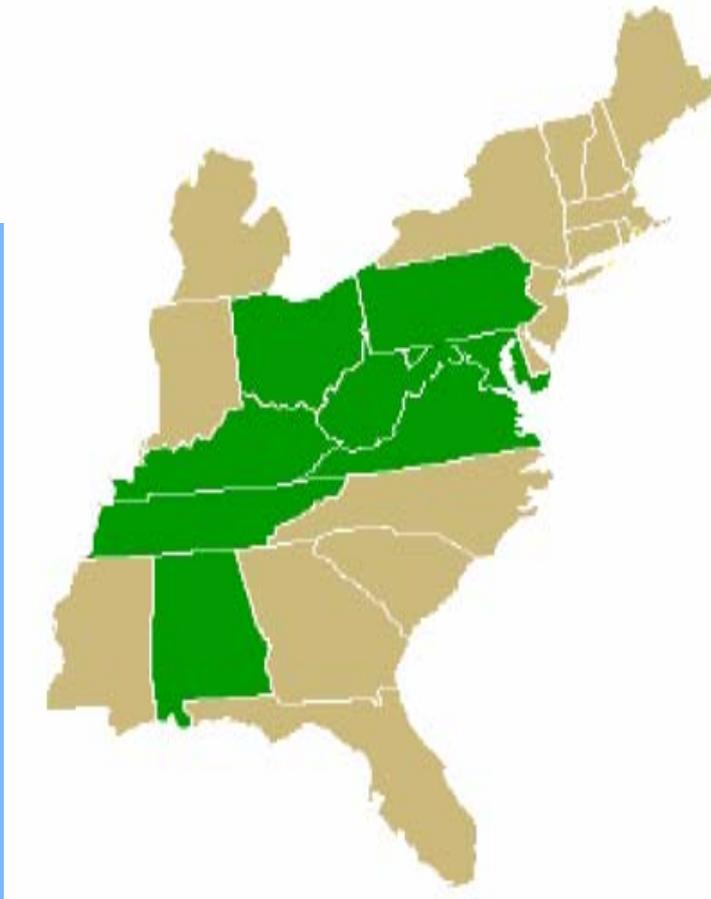
A group of OSM/VISTA volunteers dedicated to work with coal country watershed groups to fight poverty and provide rural communities with the assistance they need, empowering citizens to make their own communities cleaner, healthier places to live and work.



OSM/VISTAs on the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team * Spring 2007

An initiative of OSM and VISTA

What is the ACCWT?



- ▣ **Our team currently serves 45 sites in 8 Appalachian states, including OH, PA, WV, MD, VA, KY, TN, AL.**
- ▣ **There are 7 sites that are now actively recruiting an OSM/VISTA.**
- ▣ **The team is still looking for an additional 10 site sponsors.**

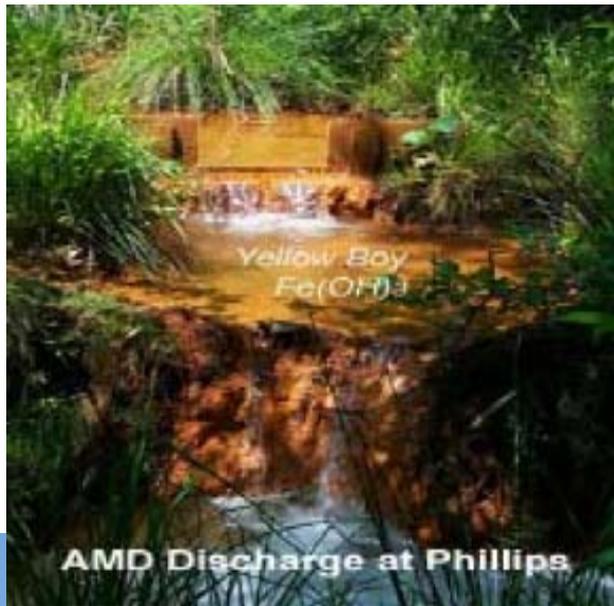
The ACCWT: A Brief History

The Need:

The challenging and insidious effects of decades of pre-regulatory mining activity throughout Appalachia:

- ▣ Acid mine drainage (AMD) and other pollutants.**
- ▣ Land scarring and environmental devastation.**
- ▣ High unemployment rates, poverty, and a sense of abandonment among many communities.**

Organized watershed groups lack the resources, time and skills to make real change happen.



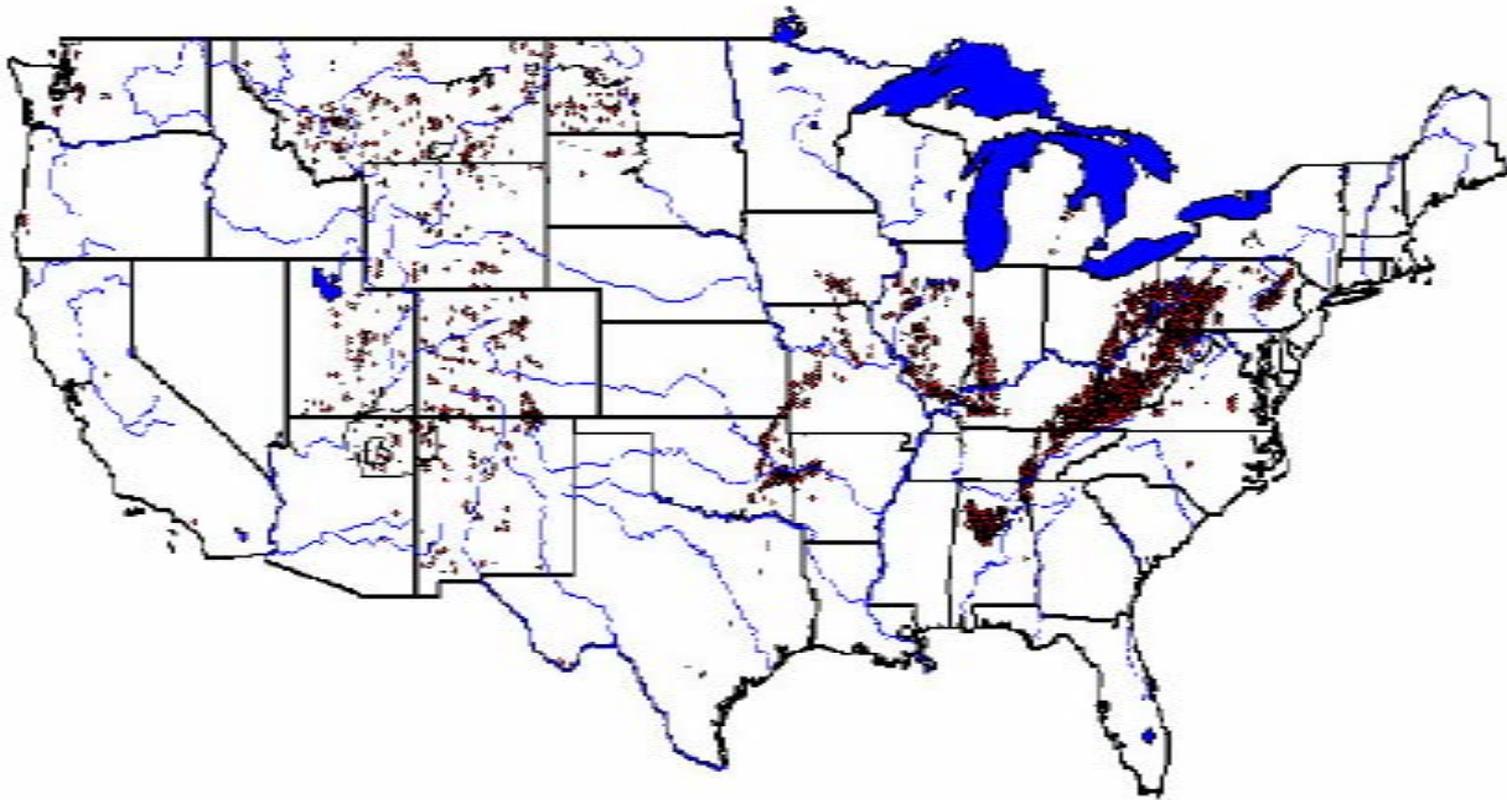


AMD Pollution



Waste coal

Location of AML problems eligible for funding: A really big problem



The ACCWT: A Brief History

A Solution:

- ▣ A pioneering union between two organizations:
- ▣ **The Office of Surface Mining (OSM) who ...assures that the land is restored to beneficial use following mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.**



The ACCWT: A Brief History

And...

AmeriCorps*VISTA who *builds permanent infrastructure and capacities in nonprofit organizations and communities to help bring individuals and communities out of poverty.*



How the OSM/VISTA partnership works: OSM

OSM Contributions:

- ▣ **\$50,000 per year in-kind to program.**
- ▣ **\$5,000 first-year-only cooperative agreement with each sponsor organization.**
- ▣ **Support and technical assistance from State OSM**

How the OSM/VISTA partnership works: AmeriCorps*VISTA

AmeriCorps*VISTA Contributions:

- ▣ **Relocation stipend.**
- ▣ **Bi-weekly living stipend.**
- ▣ **Option of \$4,725 education award or \$1200 cash per term.**
- ▣ **Educational loan deferments and interest accrual payment.**
- ▣ **Health benefits.**

How the OSM/VISTA

partnership works: Sponsor Organization Contribution

Sponsor Organization Contribution:

- ▣ **Yearly \$5500 cost-share match.**
- ▣ **Capacity for effective supervision and support of an OSM/VISTA volunteer.**
- ▣ **Adherence to ACCWT Core Goals.**
- ▣ **Must be a non-profit organization or be sponsored by one.**

How the OSM/VISTA partnership works: ACGWT Core Goals

- ▣ **Core Goal #1: Build the capacity of participating organizations to enable long-term stability and success.** OSM/VISTAs spend part of their time submitting grants, generating interest and awareness in watershed activities, training organizational staff and members in volunteer recruitment and board development, and creating opportunities for community volunteers to become actively involved.

How the OSM/VISTA partnership works: ACGWT Core Goals

- ▣ **Core Goal #2: Assist sponsor organizations in conducting the watershed research and water quality monitoring critical to future funding.**

This is crucial to our efforts to remediate acid mine drainage (AMD) as well as other harmful water pollutants. By inventorying and monitoring AMD discharges, helping to compile and map relevant watershed data, and assisting in developing and maintaining AMD treatment projects, OSM/VISTAs enable their watershed organizations to acquire the data necessary to moving forward with remediation projects.

How the OSM/VISTA

partnership works: ACGWT Core Goals

- ▣ **Core Goal #3: Assist sponsor organizations in enhancing community awareness and involvement through education and outreach.** The ultimate success of any of our projects depends on the involvement of the local communities where our OSM/VISTAs serve – getting the word out through outreach and educational activities helps foster local ownership and leads individuals to take action.

How the OSM/VISTA

partnership works: ACGWT Core Goals

- ▣ **Core Goal #4: Assist sponsor organizations in efforts of community revitalization through economic development projects, as well as those that celebrate and increase awareness and understanding of local history and culture.** OSM/VISTAs work in their communities of service to find unique ways to support and celebrate local heritage while helping to improve the living conditions and aesthetic values of the area.

How the OSM/VISTA

partnership works:

Benefits to Sponsor Organization

Sponsor Organization Benefits:

- ▣ **A committed, full-time volunteer for up to three years that will focus on:**
- ▣ **Building organizational capacity.**
- ▣ **Conducting the water quality monitoring critical to future funding.**
- ▣ **Increasing community awareness through education and outreach.**
- ▣ **Engaging in economic revitalization efforts and securing future funding.**

How the OSM/VISTA partnership works: Activities

OSM/VISTA Activities:

- ▣ Fundraising
- ▣ Strategic planning
- ▣ Program outreach and management
- ▣ Board development
- ▣ Volunteer recruitment
- ▣ Curriculum development and implementation



How the OSM/VISTA partnership works: Who works for who?

With all these organizations involved it might be hard to understand just who works for who.

- ▣ **The next diagram attempts to clarify the hierarchy and explain who to go to with questions.**

Allan Comp



ACCWT's Site Sponsor



This is who administers the Americorps programs. They also cut your VISTAs paycheck

Beckley Office Contact: Savanna Lyons



Corporation for National Community Service

This the position Hanna filled.

This is my position.



EASTERN COAL REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE



NORTHERN COALFIELDS SUPPORT COORDINATOR



SOUTHERN COALFIELDS SUPPORT COORDINATOR

These are our site sponsors



HOST SITE



HOST SITE



HOST SITE



HOST SITE



HOST SITE



HOST SITE

ACCWWT Accomplishments and Successes

Since 2002, the team collective has generated:

- ▣ Over 90,000 hours of Volunteer service
- ▣ Over \$5.1 million in-kind donations
- ▣ Over \$3.3 million in grants, cash, and other fundraising



ACGWT Accomplishments and Successes



In October of 2004, the ACCWT received the Environmental Achievement Award from the Department Of the Interior in recognition of our team's work.

ACCWWT Accomplishments and Successes

**Watershed Awareness
Presentation, Westmoreland County**



**Fish stocking in Blackleggs
Creek, Indiana County**

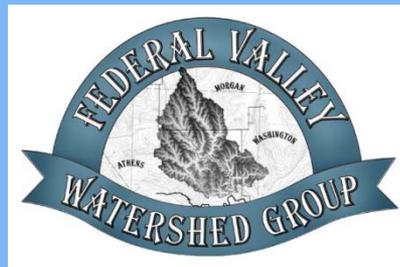


How to Become an ACCWT Sponsor

We seek small watershed organizations where an OSM/VISTA can make a real difference.

Qualifications:

- Must be a non-profit organization or be sponsored by one.
- Demonstrate capacity for effective supervision and support for the OSM/VISTA.
- Must agree to adhere to team Core Goals.



Learn more

Visit us on the web!

www.accwt.org

Contact us:

All contact for ACCWT Sponsors is handled
through

Dr. T. Allan Comp, OSM/VISTA Director:

tcomp@osmre.gov, 202-208-2836

**Sponsor Application Forms and VISTA
information can be obtained from Savanna
Lyons, ACCWT Team Leader:**

info@accwt.org, 304-461-3130