

HULING BRANCH EAST ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROJECT

Office of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations

Purpose To eliminate eligible abandoned mine public health and safety hazards that are located within close proximity to places of intense visitation of humans.

ACCOMPLISHMENT TABLE					
Keyword	AMLF No.	Quantity (Count)	Priority	Acres	Linear Feet
DH	1123-05	1	2	-	2500
SA	1123-06	1	3	12	-
DH	1123-07	1	2	-	500
SA	1123-08	1	3	1	-
DPE	1123-09	1	2	10	-
GO	6679-01	1	3	2	-
SL	6679-02	1	3	0.5	-

DH = Dangerous Highwall
DPE = Dangerous Pile or Embankment

SA = Spoil Area GO = Gob

SL = Slurry

The Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation eliminated multiple Abandoned Mine Land Features (AMLFs) within the Sproul State Forest through the Huling Branch East project. It eliminated two (2) dangerous highwalls, approximately 2,500 linear feet (L.F.) and 500 L.F. in length. It eliminated a 10-acre dangerous pile and embankment consisting of acid forming shale that was approximately 30 feet high with steep, unstable slopes.

The pile was regraded on site with alkaline material added and revegetated to create a flat area for visitor parking and for future emergency helicopter evacuations. It also eliminated a 0.5-acre slurry pond with associated gob material.

Approximately 5,000 L.F. of ATV trails were constructed as part of an addition to the Whiskey Springs Trail System within Sproul State Forest. The Whiskey Springs Trail System offers 45 miles of ATV recreational trails, which have attracted intense public visitation to areas off the promoted trail and within the dangerous abandoned mine land areas. The unwarranted visitation had resulted in garbage dumping, fire rings, empty alcohol containers, and ATV riding injuries.

These dangerous AMLFs were located within Problem Areas 1123 and 6679 (PA 1123 and 6679), which are referenced within the Renovo West 7.5 Minute USGS Quadrangle Map. This dangerous condition was a direct result of surface and deep mining performed by the Kettle Creek Coal, D.G. Wertz and Richmont Coal Companies prior to 1967. These dangerous AMLFs qualified for the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Priority 2 safety criteria.

Project at a Glance

Location:

The project site is located in Sproul State Forest, Leidy and Noyes Townships, Clinton County. The site can be accessed from I-99N by taking Exit 61 toward US-322W/Philipsburg/Port Matilda. Follow US-220 Alt N/East Plank Road for 19 miles and continue onto PA-150N for 18 miles. Take a slight left onto Lusk Run Road and continue for 1 mile and keep left to stay on Lusk Run Road for another 2 miles. Continue onto Hill Street and in one-half mile turn left onto PA 120W/Susquehanna Avenue and follow for 33 miles. Turn right onto Kettle Creek Road and in 1.5 miles, turn right onto Two Mile Run Road. In 2 miles, turn left onto Middle Branch Road and follow for one-half mile. Turn left onto Mud Rat Road and the destination will be on the left in one-half mile.

Watershed:

Huling Branch, Trout Stocking (TSF) Middle Branch Two Mile Run, Trout Stocking (TSF)

Project Period:

May 20, 2021 - August 25, 2023

Project Size:

49 Acres

Total Project Cost:

\$3,969,620.86

Funding:

Funding was made available through Pennsylvania's federal Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program, which is funded in part by the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) Program.

Contractor:

Earthmovers Unlimited, Inc.

Property Owners:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry (Sproul State Forest)

Project Management:

Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation Cambria District Office



Hulling Branch East ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROJECT

Pre-Construction







Hulling Branch East ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROJECT

Construction









Hulling Branch East ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROJECT

Post-Construction



