

Jefferson County Conservation District AMD report: The JCCD has been actively working on the AMD treatment sites within our county. As the new watershed specialist, I have been putting in a lot of time becoming familiar with all the sites within Jefferson county and how they operate. So far, we have been able to sample all the sites within the county for Stream Restoration, Inc. We have also done maintenance work on both Conifer East and West. We collected pre and post maintenance water samples to illustrate the improvements that were made in the water because of the maintenance work. Inspection reports for both sites were created during the maintenance work.

Armstrong Conservation District Updates on AMD/AMR Projects: Darmac 14 – I floated my GoPro down our vegetated waterway from the deep mine discharge to our treatment pond. I should have a little video out shortly on our Facebook page showing how the water flows to the pond and the iron drops out of the water (insert shameless plug for our Facebook page). Silver Rock I – We were having issues with ATVs destroying water bars and compromising the integrity of some of the ponds by riding around the berms. We placed concrete blocks in certain places, directing the ATV's to use a different path as to not cause too much damage to the system. We have found that if we shut them out completely, they will come in and cause damage anyway, but if we direct them to a different path, they tend to follow it. This seems to be working and no additional damage has been found since placing the blocks in the spring. Silver Rock II – This is a passive wetland system consisting of multiple settling ponds/wetlands and an MOB that treats several seeps completed in Dec 2019. The system sits below a large field. Runoff from the hillside during 1 or 2 extreme rain events have been too much for the treatment system to handle. The damage to the system during these events was recently repaired. We are going back and laying a drain at about a 2% grade above the system to catch the runoff and divert it around the system. We have not had ATV damage on this side of the project because of what we learned from the Phase I project and placed brush directing the ATVs to a different path. Huling Run – We have submitted a GG grant application for a second phase of this project. The Armstrong Conservancy has partnered with us in this effort and has submitted a WCAP grant application through OSMRE. This project would pick up additional seeps and reclaim a spoil pile while adding a wildlife food plot on State Game Land property. We hope to restore and remove from the impaired streams list a TSF stream. Other: We helped to collect samples for the 2020 Passive Treatment System Snapshot. 8 samples were taken at 2 treatment systems, Keystone Lake Wetland and NuMine – White Lake. We found some areas on both that could use some general maintenance/repair. Future: We are looking into a potential AMD site along Glade Run. There is also potential to partner with DEP to plug old mine shafts from a clay mine and use the discharge for a trout nursery.

Westmoreland Conservation District updates: The Lowber Passive Treatment System Iron Oxide Removal Growing Greener Grant is underway- Approx. 55 truck loads of dry iron oxide has left the site to date. New Iron will be pumped out of the settling ponds starting the week of August 24th. WCD Board of Directors support the RECLAIM Act (H.R. 2156)