



FRIENDS OF DECKERS CREEK

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Treatment Design and Progress at the Richard Mine Discharge

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The Deckers Creek Watershed spans 64 square miles across Preston and Monongalia Counties in North Central West Virginia. Deckers Creek flows approximately 24 miles, while the watershed contains 14 named tributaries and number of unnamed or informally named tributaries.

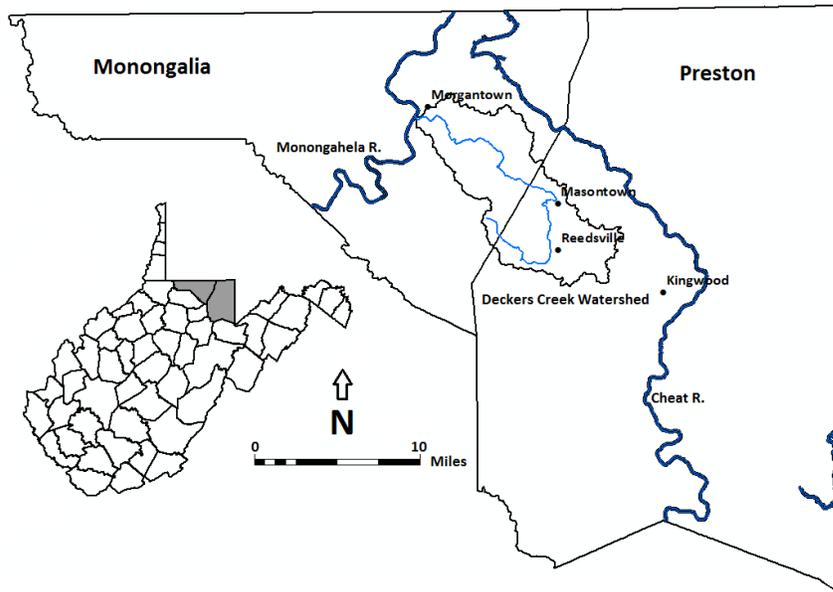


Figure 1. Location of Deckers Creek watershed

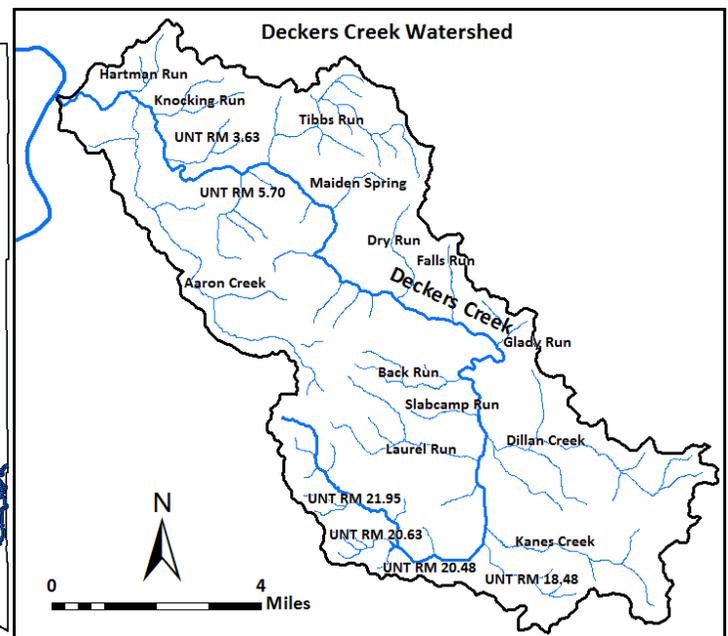


Figure 2. Streams in the Deckers Creek Watershed

Deckers Creek, along with many of its tributaries, is on the West Virginia 303(d) list of impaired streams. Pollution indicates degradation from acidity, metals, and fecal coliform bacteria.

Because of these impairments a small group of outdoorsmen and women started a small nonprofit watershed group whose goal was to turn Deckers Creek from a liability into an asset. Friends of Deckers Creek gained its 501c(3) status in 2000, and has been working ever since to improve the natural qualities of, increase the public concern for, and promote the enjoyment of the Deckers Creek Watershed.

For the past 19 years, Friends of Deckers Creek has focused its efforts on remediating acid mine drainage, with the ultimate goal of removing Deckers and its tributaries from the 303(d) list of impaired streams for acidity and metals.

The mission of Friends of Deckers Creek is to improve the natural qualities of, increase the public concern for, and promote the enjoyment of the Deckers Creek Watershed.

While parts of the headwaters and the Deckers Creek Mainstem has seen significant improvement over the past years, there is a continuous blight on Deckers just miles from its confluence with the Monongahela River. The Richard mine has been dumping over 292,000 pounds of acidity and dissolved metals into Deckers Creek for many years.

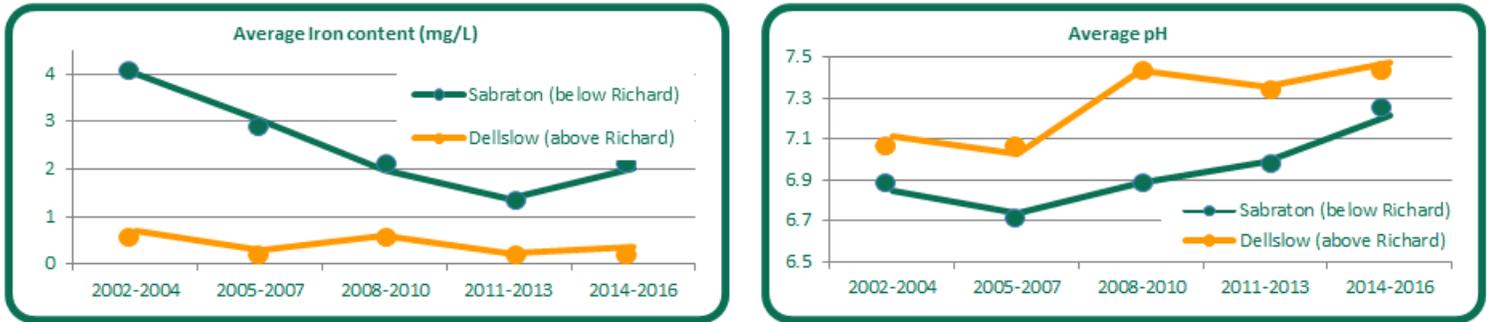


Figure 3. Water quality data above and below Richard Mine.

After years of monitoring and advocating for the cleanup of the Richard Mine across the community, the Natural Resource Conservation Service was awarded 3.375 million dollars to remediate the site.

Abandoned Mine Lands was brought on as the local sponsor and since the award in 2017 they have been working towards plans of remediation. Although the design is in the beginning stages, due to ongoing land negotiations, the basic idea will be a large scale active treatment site.

The potential treatment site has been described as including an active doser, a clarifier, and additional treatment measures on the sight of the discharge. We are looking forward to more information about the treatment site soon.

This presentation will explore the history of Deckers Creek and the effects of the Richard Mine pollution.

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