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Technical Support for Implementing the West Virginia AML Program

Project No. WV-244:
Funding: \$472,178 WVDEP
\$ Cost-Share
\$ Total Value
Project Duration: 5/1/2007 – 8/31/2008
Recipient: West Virginia University
Principal Investigator: Richard Herd, Program Coordinator
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Project Description: The WV Water Research Institute has provided technical support to the WV Department of Protection (WVDEP), Office of Abandoned Mine Land and Reclamation for implementation of the expanded Abandoned Mine Land (AML) program. The technical assistance services provided to WVDEP included:

1. Development and application of a GIS-based restoration alternative decision support system to visually illustrate remediation alternative outcomes and costs.
2. Estimation of the economic benefits of water quality restoration accomplished under the AML program.
3. Application of an EcoUnit (EU) concept to identify cold- and warm-water fishery restoration priorities.
4. AMD remediation designs (type, size, location) that target maximum recovery of productive fisheries.
5. Cost – Benefit analysis of alternative remediation designs.
6. Design of monitoring programs to quantify the ecological and economic benefits.
7. Data analysis, report writing, and presentations to the public.

Project Significance: The implementation process developed by WVVRI provides WVDEP a scientifically sound, transparent and defensible process for prioritizing and implementing restoration actions that achieve the greatest ecological benefits per dollar invested in stream restoration.