

# DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS FOR A COMMON GOAL<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** The Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable (ECRR), headquartered in Mullens, West Virginia is one of the 13 roundtables formed under President Clinton's *Clean Water Action Plan* to restore degraded watersheds across the United States. The organization was formed in 2000 when 18 representatives from 10 organizations met in West Virginia to discuss the challenges and needs of coal country watersheds. Today, we are a 501c3 organization providing information and outreach to over 400 watershed organizations across the seven states of Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, ECRR will cooperatively conduct a tree planting on 9 acres of a pre-regulatory abandoned mine site in Wyoming County, WV. In order to accomplish this project, it was necessary to cultivate partnerships with a variety of organizations including a mining company, an environmental organization, community groups, the local school district, reforestation organizations and a variety of other sponsors. Bringing these groups together provided unique challenges as well as benefits for the event. Ultimately, all funding and volunteer needs were met in order to accomplish a mutually beneficial result for all involved.

The intended session would highlight the partnering process for a community reclamation project, concerns and pitfalls, as well as outcomes and benefits of such partnerships. The session will be presented by ECRR's Outreach Coordinator, OSM Americorps VISTA Danny Allgeier. He is involved with the planning and execution of the Cliffs American Chestnut Project.

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