

OSMRE/VISTAS AT WORK: BUILDING CAPACITY TO MEET CHALLENGES IN PRE-REGULATORY MINING AREAS



Beginnings in Coal Country



Environmental Stewardship and Poverty Alleviation



Western Slope Conservation Center

Paonia, Colorado

River Park and outreach





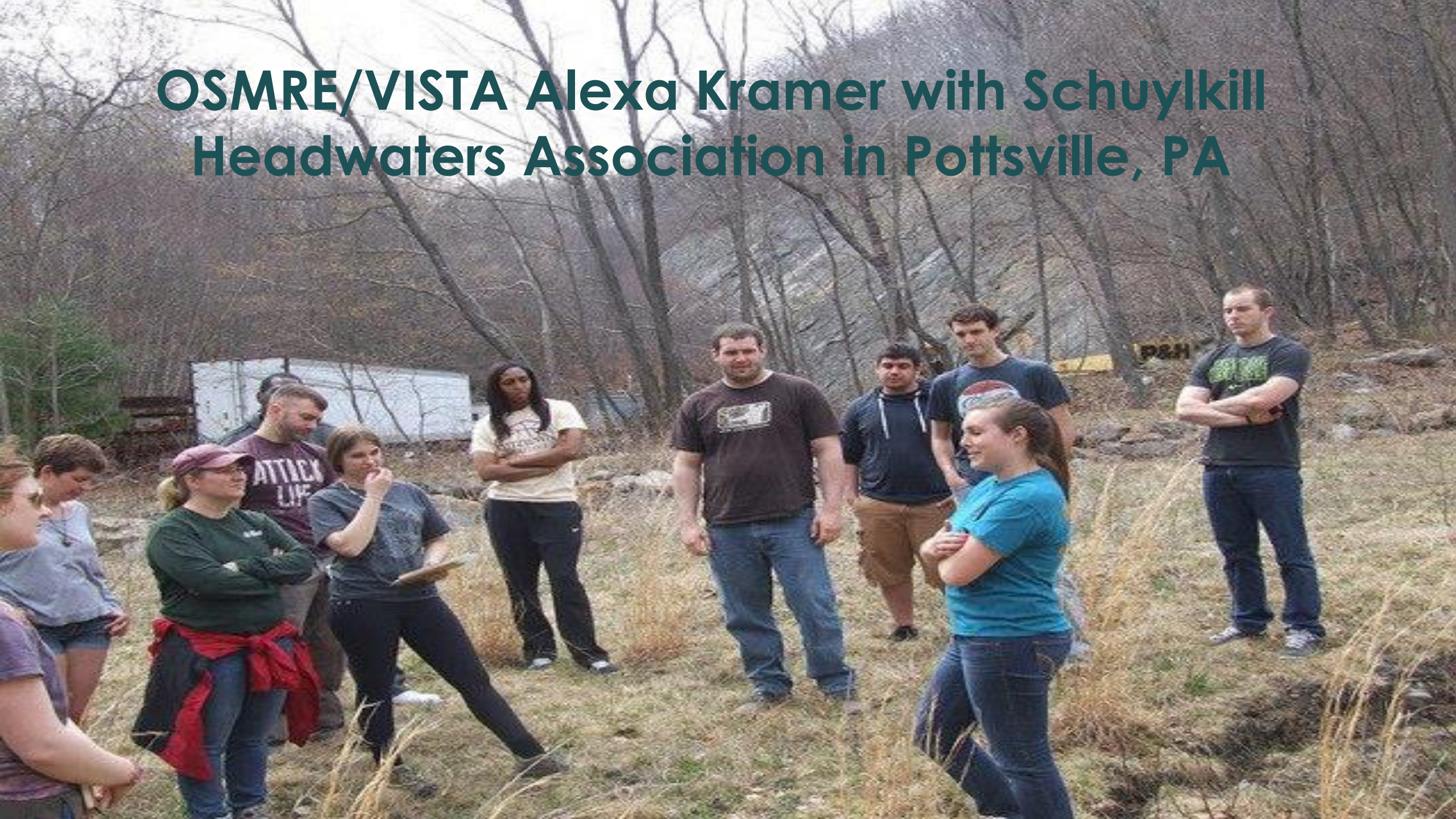
Paonia River Park - North Fork of the Gunnison after the Fish Habitat Restoration. Note the new wide bank.



New concrete trail and waterbox tree planting at the River Park - May 2013



OSMRE/VISTA Alexa Kramer with Schuylkill Headwaters Association in Pottsville, PA



Silver Creek Environmental Education Trail and Recreation (SCEETR)

passive AMD treatment system + Environmental Education Center



Silver Creek Mine Tunnel Discharge Project

The Silver Creek Mine Tunnel Discharge Project was constructed to treat the abandoned mine drainage (AMD) that flows from the old underground mine workings of the Silver Creek Mine Tunnel to Silver Creek and the main branch of the Schuylkill River. The treatment system consists of intake piping with a control valve, a scour pond with limestone lining to increase pH and distribute flow, and overflow weirs to add oxygen to the water which aids in changing the dissolved metals into metallic-rich particles which can be settled. These preliminary treatment devices are followed by an aeration pond where additional aeration devices can be added in the future, a settling pond, wetland cell, and variable level pond. The treatment system raises the pH of the water and promotes the precipitation of dissolved metals including iron, aluminum and manganese. The project has reduced AMD pollutant loadings from the Silver Creek Discharge to Silver Creek and the main branch of the Schuylkill River.

Funding for this project has been provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Section 104(a) Mine Reclamation Management Grant and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Pennsylvania Integrated Mine Drainage and Abandonment Remediation Demonstration Grant. Project partners are listed below.



BEFORE AFTER

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Northampton Fuels

Schuylkill
COUNTY

RETTEW

Schuylkill Headwaters

Premium Fine Coal

READING

Flyway Excavating, Inc.

Engaging the Community



Environmental Education Program

Promoting STEM Education for K-12



Engaging College-Age Students





San Juan Watershed Group

Aztec, New Mexico

Microbial Source Tracking Study and Outreach



Second OSMRE/VISTA Julia Campus, helping train River Watch volunteers to help gather sampling for the MST study



Left to right: 2nd OSMRE/VISTA Julia Campus and 1st OSMRE/VISTA Melissa May at an workshop doing outreach for the San Juan Watershed Group.



Attendees to the outreach meetings, that current OSMRE/VISTA Conn Fraser helped to organize, to educate the public about the MST study results regarding agriculture, waste water treatment and septic systems, and their impact on the E. coli levels in the river

Specialist and previous OSMRE/VISTA Melissa May who now works for the local Soil and Water Conservation District which houses the San Juan Watershed Partnership, present at the outreach meetings.



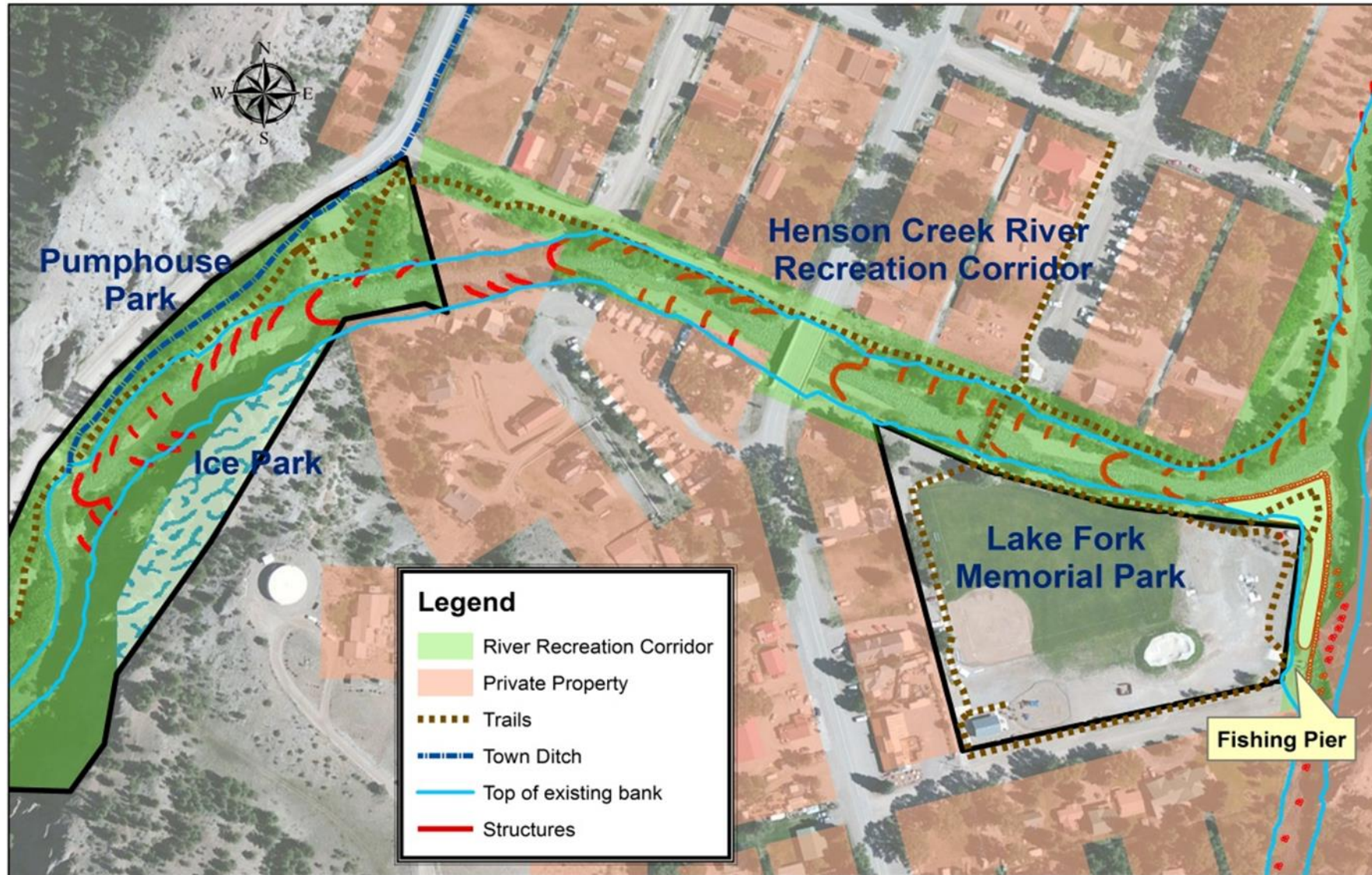
Lake Fork Valley Conservancy

Lake City, Colorado

Henson Creek and Lake Fork River Enhancement Project



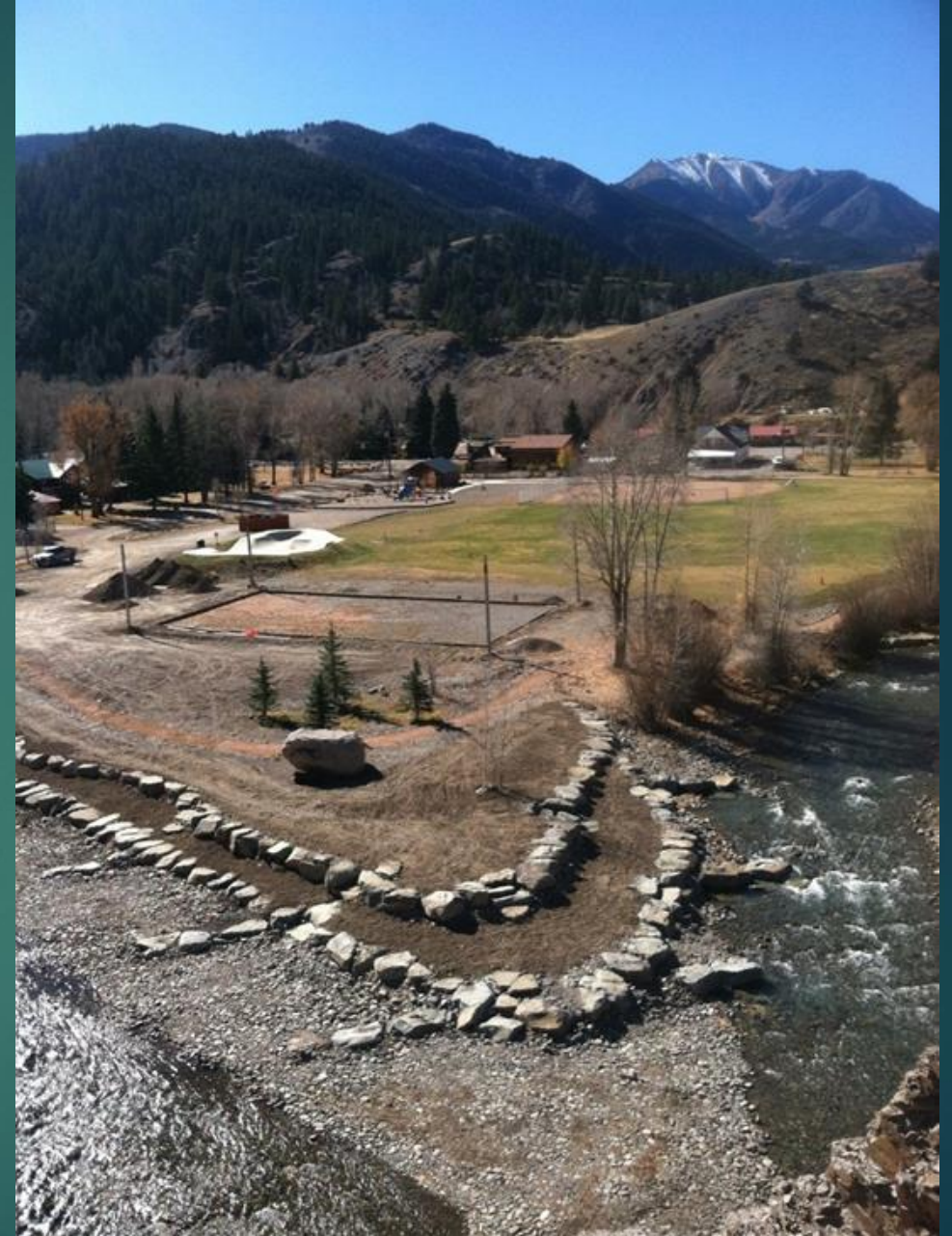
Henson Creek/Lake Fork Confluence River Recreation Project Area



0 125 250 500 750 1,000 Feet

LFVC 2013

Fishing Pier next to the Lake Fork Memorial Park at the confluence – Enhancement Project Phase I Day 1



Fishing Pier at the Confluence – Enhancement Project Phase I Final Day



Economic Opportunity and Poverty Alleviation





Quality Homes
Quality Jobs
Quality Lives



Quality Jobs Initiative

- ▶ 10 members in the program between Wayne and Mingo counties
 - ▶ 2 graduates and another this month
- ▶ 33-6-3 Model
- ▶ Two current Housing Development Projects
 1. Urlings Building in Wayne, WV
 2. Twelvepole Valley Apartments in Wayne County
- ▶ Three Deconstruction Projects
- ▶ One large warehouse renovation
 1. Corbin Warehouse in Westmoreland, WV



Corbin Warehouse



Acquired by the previous OSMRE/VISTA through an ArtPlace America grant, which began the QJI program in 2014.





Quality Homes

Urling's General Store
converted to
commercial
(downstairs) and
living space
(upstairs).



Twelvepole Valley Apartments



Quality Lives



- ▶ Mentorship and Counseling
- ▶ Life Skills Courses
 - ▶ Each month has a focus on one professional and one personal criterion
 - ▶ Courses held once/week
 - ▶ Evaluations
- ▶ Retreats
 - ▶ Encouraging reflection, community and teamwork

Future Project for QJI: Trout's Hill Coffee Shop





OSMRE VISTA Nathan Tauger serving with Rural Appalachian Improvement League (RAIL) in Mullens, WV.

WV Americorps Youth Program

- ▶ The year-long program will focus on providing 10 local youth the opportunity to learn life skills while advocating for and protecting the environment through community service.
- ▶ Each youth member will have a local mentor throughout their year.

WV AmeriCorps Youth Program





**Reclaiming
Abandoned
Mine Land for
Agriculture
and Youth
Opportunity**

City of Victor – D.R.E.A.M.

Victor, Colorado



► Pre-Coffin Cart Race:

Kyle DeCarolus (OSMRE/VISTA), Becky Parham (Supervisor), and a couple volunteers stand with the outhouse cart constructed as a marketing device to promote Victor Race Day at the Manitou Springs Emma Crawford Coffin Cart Race.



- ▶ 1st OSMRE/VISTA Becky Parham (holding award) surrounded by other state winners for the Colorado Governor's Awards for Downtown Excellence: Best Facade Improvement Program. Becky Parham was integral in developing the City of Victor's Main Street program which included the town's downtown facade improvement.

Partnerships and Community Based Solutions



Contributors

- **Dr. T Allan Comp**, Founder/Program Officer
- **Sarah Meade**, OSMRE/WHWT VISTA Team Leader
- **Amy Showalter**, OSMRE VISTA Team Coordinator
- **Cody Zirkle**, OSMRE/ACCT VISTA Team Leader

Special Thanks to our VISTAs in the field.



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QUESTIONS???

