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west virginia department of environmental protection

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Division of Mining and Reclamation  
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Harold D. Ward, Cabinet Secretary  
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September 17, 2021

The Honorable Craig Blair, Chair  
The Honorable Roger Hanshaw, Chair  
Joint Committee on Government and Finance  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear President Blair and Speaker Hanshaw:

Enclosed is a compilation of receipts and expenditures from the Stream Restoration Fund (SRF) for fiscal years 1999 through 2021, as required by WV Code §22-11-7a(2)(D). Expenditures for each fiscal year have been itemized. The following is activity for fiscal year 2021:

- Expenditures - During fiscal year 2021 \$107,556 was deposited into the SRF and \$122 was expended from the fund. Expenditures were for Miscellaneous (Bank costs).
- Acres of Streams Reclaimed - Due to the Covid-19 pandemic there was no stream acres reclaimed during FY 2021. However, planning, communication, and work on obtaining land agreements for river/stream access continued and are still on-going.
- Effectiveness of Stream Restoration – There were no in-stream restoration activities performed during Fiscal Year 2021. Although there was planning, surveys and preliminary design work done on several other stream restoration projects, consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic during the entire FY 2021 greatly affected further in-stream activities.

The Lower Coal River (Main Stem) Project is a continuation of the highly successful stream restoration and enhancement work that was previously completed on the Little Coal River. All survey and design work has been completed. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the WV Department of Natural Resources (WVDNR) permits were approved in September 2019. Acquisition of land rights along the Coal River and bidding out of the project continued through

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2020. However, impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic has delayed these activities through FY 2021. Efforts are ongoing with various landowners along the project reach for permission to access the necessary areas of the river. These efforts have been difficult because face to face discussions have not been possible, but some agreements have been obtained through phone calls and mail/email and efforts are continuing to complete this task.

The Winding Gulf stream restoration and enhancement project would reduce sedimentation and streambank erosion and will have a major impact on improving the quality of the trout stream. The project will consist of the installation of various types of in-stream structures to increase stream flow, create riffles, runs, and pools along an approximate stream reach of 2.5 miles below Helen, WV. Additionally, bank stabilization structures including the planting of trees and shrubs along the stream bank will help reduce stream bank erosion and stream sedimentation. Work on stream surveys, plan development, and stream access agreements have been put on hold pending agreements with the landowner, Western Pocahontas Properties (WPP), to address access, liability, use of property, restrictions/reservations, etc. Discussions with WPP are expected to resume with WPP during FY 2022.

The Buffalo Creek stream restoration and enhancement project was successfully completed in FY 2020 and remaining funds will be un-encumbered.

The Canaan Valley Institute Winding Gulf project is complete and remaining funds will be un-encumbered.

Should you have any questions or require additional information please contact me at (304) 926-0499.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Rorrer  
Acting Director, Division of Mining and

Reclamation

JR/ch  
C: Randy Taylor  
John Vernon  
Craig Hatcher  
Legislative Auditor