

## Susquehanna River Basin Commission Information Sheet

### BEAR RUN WATERSHED ABANDONED MINE DRAINAGE REMEDIATION PROJECT

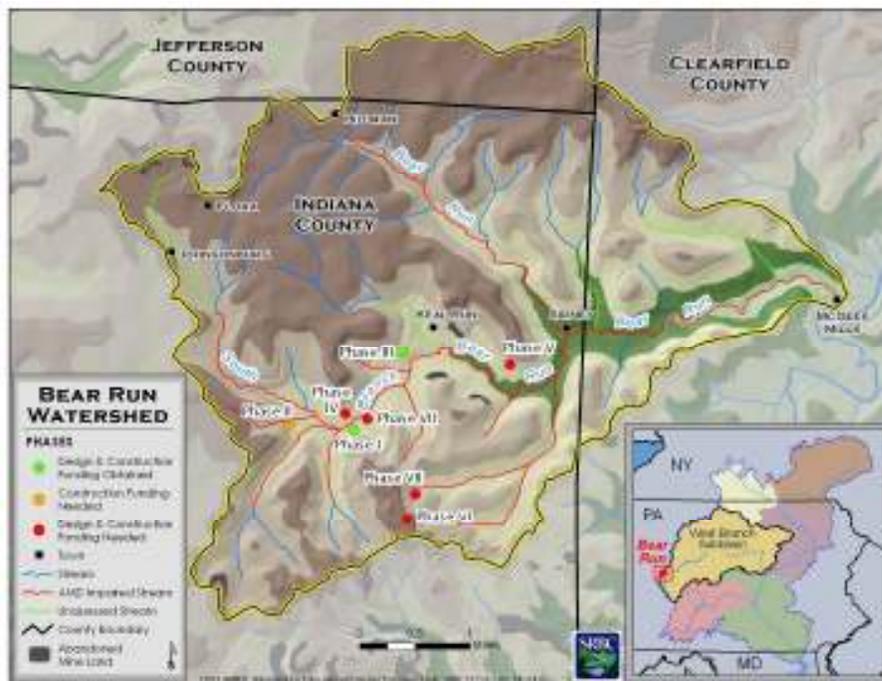


#### The Watershed

The Bear Run Watershed drains an area of about 19.3 square miles to the West Branch Susquehanna River (West Branch) in Indiana, Jefferson and Clearfield Counties. Bear Run begins at the headwaters near Hillman, Indiana County, and flows 4.5 miles southeast to its confluence with the South Branch of Bear Run at the ghost town of Sidney and then flows 3.25 miles east to its confluence with the West Branch at McGee's Mills, Clearfield County.

#### AMD Impacts

In 2005, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) prepared a draft total maximum daily load study for Bear Run Watershed. As a result of coal mining dating back to the 1880s, 43.9 miles of Bear Run are listed as impaired by abandoned mine drainage (AMD) on the Pennsylvania Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters.



Bear Run, which is one of the largest AMD impacts to the headwaters section of the West Branch, contributes about 327 tons/year acidity, 34 tons/year iron (Fe), 29 tons/year manganese (Mn) and 20 tons/year aluminum (Al). In 2005, the Indiana County Conservation District (ICCD) completed the Bear Run Restoration Plan, which documented that eight of the 27 AMD discharge sites in the watershed are contributing 72 percent of the AMD loading into Bear Run.

#### Remediation Proposal, Funding and Benefits

ICCD's Bear Run Restoration Plan includes a proposal to remediate the eight sites using eight separate design and construction phases (shown on map above). Funding for design Phases I, II and III and construction Phases I and III have already been obtained by ICCD, Evergreen Conservancy and their partners.



In April 2007, SRBC and ICCD applied for a Growing Greener Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to complete construction Phases II and IV-VIII to treat the 72 percent loading and restore the entire Bear Run Watershed into a high quality, cold water and native brook trout fishery. *Photo: native Bear Run brook trout.*

If the grant project is funded, it would also support the PA WILDS initiative, West Branch Task Force, as well as complement other West Branch headwaters restoration efforts, namely the Barnes and Watkins coal refuse pile removal and the Barnes and Tucker discharge remediation project. Finally, the improved water quality would enhance recreation on the West Branch Water Trail and at Curwensville Lake in Clearfield County.