



OSM/VISTA Big Sandy ADD, KY

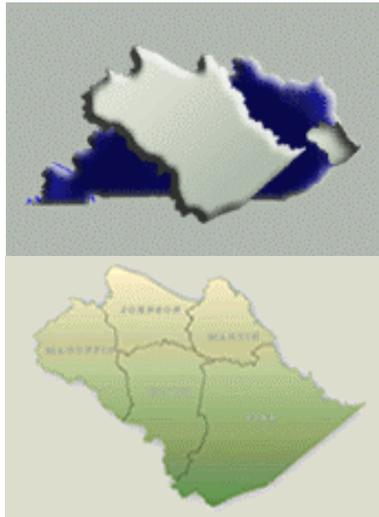
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The Big Sandy River Region of Kentucky is comprised of many neighboring mountain communities totaling 160,532 inhabitants in a land area of 1,983 square miles at the easternmost tip of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This culturally colorful region located in the mineral rich central Appalachian Mountains supports a wide array of wildlife in undisturbed forests, and is the center of the eastern coalfields.

Past coal mining operations have left the area environmentally devastated. Acid Mine Drainage destroys the biological and ecological quality of the communities, which affects future

economic growth and development in the Big Sandy Region.

The Big Sandy Area Development District (BSADD), which includes Floyd, Johnson, Martin, Magoffin and Pike Counties, is a multi-county organization serving Eastern Kentucky. It is charged with planning, promoting, and coordinating programs for regional economic and social development. The BSADD works closely with local and state governments on many projects. The OSM/VISTA project is the first step towards recognizing existing problems, restoring the environment, and utilizing contaminated mine sites for economic growth and development.



In our first OSM/VISTA year, we are going to be assessing the impact of abandoned mine lands, creating/sustaining watershed groups, completing a source-water area protection plan, completing a wastewater management plan, and completing a water management plan.

In the month that she has been with the BSADD she has located several acid mine drainage sites, completed a round of water testing, created



partnerships with local watershed groups and launched the initiative for the creation of an educational program for high school students. In addition to this, she has completed a grant for flood prevention in the Big Sandy Region.

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