



OSM/VISTA North Fork of the Blackwater, WV

[Home Page](#)[Directory](#)[Index](#)[Search](#)[Site Map](#)[Help](#)

The North Fork of the Blackwater River is located in West Virginia's premier natural and scenic recreational "Crown Jewel" of the Potomac Highlands.

The river is heavily impacted by Acid Mine Drainage caused by abandoned deep and strip mines. The North Fork Watershed Project, established in August 2002, is committed to working with the community to find creative solutions to this problem. Solutions will take into account the rich historic, scenic and cultural resources in the watershed.

The area boomed in the early part of the 1900s with the coal mining and timber industries. These are long gone, but the environmental impacts as well as many historic landmarks remain. The North Fork and adjacent rail-trail have enormous recreational potential.

Much of the OSM/VISTA's job involved data collection and organization, community outreach, intern supervision, and grant writing. The North Fork Watershed Project OSM/VISTA was instrumental in planning special events, collecting oral histories from people in the watershed, recruiting volunteers, producing educational literature, and applying for funding for AMD treatment.



Emily Samargo testing for dissolved oxygen(right)



Emily Samargo and Lindsay Abraham (WVDEP) taking a flow measurement

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