



## Results Expected to "Pour" in for Stream Reclamation on Wayne NF

*A group of partners bather to celebrate the six month anniversary of a stream reclamation effort on the Wayne National Forest.*



Harry Payne (ODNR), Russ Gibson (Ohio EPA), Mike Steinmaus (MCGW), Bill Theisen, Athens County Commissioner, Jane Forest-Redfern with Rural Action, and Gary Willison, Wayne NF, cut the ribbon to start the chemical doser on Snow Fork Creek.

Last April, a group of partners joined with the Wayne National Forest Watershed Team to dedicate a chemical doser on a local stream heavily contaminated with acid mine drainage from the old Essex Mine site nearby. Now the group can begin to measure the results of their efforts and partnership as the doser comes up on the 6th month of operation on Snow Fork Creek.

Snow Fork is part of the Monday Creek watershed on the Athens District of the Wayne. The Forest worked with Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), Office of Surface Mining (OSM), and staff and volunteer with the Monday Creek Watershed Group (MCWG) to establish and dedicate the doser last spring, which mixes and doses measured amounts of calcium carbonate into the stream to reverse the damage caused by high acid levels.

The Essex Coal Mine is an extensive set of shafts and underground rooms which cover approximately 2,500 acres underground, discharging AMD at an average rate of 700 gallons per minute into Snow Fork, making Snow Fork unsuitable for aquatic life. Due to the high flow rate at this site traditional treatments were not viable.

The Forest and partners have been working in the area to close the subsidence that sustains the flow at this site when surface streams are channeled off underground and enter the mine.

The total cost of the doser, situated on the Forest along a main county road, was \$324,500 with the partners contributing \$315,500. Staff from ODNR will monitor and maintain the site, and volunteers from MCWFG and the Forest will monitor the results along the stream. The doser is designed to treat water for a distance of about six miles downstream, and the teams hope their monitoring results will bear this out.

The hope is the doser will be a temporary fix while the sources of the problem are fixed. If that success is reached, the doser could possibly be moved to another location to help improve water quality in and around the Wayne.

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