

FAQ's About the Huling Branch Reclamation Project and Whiskey Springs ATV Trail



Acid drainage seeping from abandoned mines destroys land and stream resources.

The 100-acre Huling Branch reclamation project will eliminate public health and safety concerns.

6,000 linear feet of dangerous highwall, with drop-offs of 40 to 70 feet, will be backfilled to its original contours, eliminating a safety hazard for ATV riders and other forest visitors.

The ferrous hydroxide, called "yellowboy" and sulfuric acid in mine drainage kill plants and aquatic life, encrust man-made structures and make waters unfit for use or recreation.

Roughly 370,000 tons of alkaline material will be incorporated to neutralize highly acidic mine spoil and coal refuse. About 137,000 tons of crop coal around the perimeter of the reclamation area will be removed, along with 17,500 tons of buried coal refuse along sections of the existing highwall.

Over 8,500 feet of recreational trails, part of the Bureau of Forestry's Whiskey Springs ATV trail system, will be reconstructed. Over 54 acres will be re-vegetated with 48,150 tree seedlings utilizing the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative. An additional 47 acres will be re-vegetated with wildlife habitat grasses.

What is the project?

The Huling Branch project is a large abandoned mine reclamation effort in the Sproul State Forest. It will reduce acid mine drainage and eliminate public health and safety hazards from dangerous highwalls.

How long will it take?

Project completion is scheduled for September 2015 but work may take longer.

Why is the Whiskey Springs ATV trail closed?

The trail is closed because the safety of the public and workers is paramount.

As Huling Branch construction intensifies, traffic conflicts among ATVs, heavy trucks and equipment will be pronounced. Access and parking for trailered ATVs will be severely limited.

The entire trail will be closed for the duration of the project.

Who is doing the work?

The project is being done by L.R. Cosatanzo Co. Inc. of Scranton, PA.

How much is the project going to cost?

The project will cost roughly 12.2 million dollars to complete.

Are hunting and public access permitted in the area?

Hunting is prohibited within the project area and a 150 yard safety zone around the boundaries of the project. See the map on the reverse.

Trails outside the safety zone are open for non-motorized public access.

Where else can I ride?

ATV enthusiasts can enjoy riding the nearby Bloody Skillet ATV Trail while the Huling Branch Project is active.

How do I get to Bloody Skillet?

From the Snow Shoe Exit of US Route 80 (Exit 147):
Follow PA Route 144 north about 19 miles. Turn right onto De Haas Road and travel 5.3 miles south to the Bloody Skillet ATV Trail Northern Terminus Trailhead.

From the intersection of PA Route 120 and PA Route 144 in Renovo:
Follow PA Route 144 south about 16.5 miles to De Haas Road. Turn left onto De Haas Road. Travel approximately 5.3 miles to Bloody Skillet ATV Trail Northern Terminus Trailhead.

From the intersection of PA Route 150 and PA 364 (Monument-Orviston Road) in Beech Creek, PA:
Follow Monument-Orviston Road northwest about 10.1 miles to Orviston, PA and the Southern Terminus Trailhead (Brickyard Parking Area) off De Haas Road in Orviston. To access the Northern Terminus Trailhead, take De Haas Road north from Brickyard Parking Area for about 5.0 miles.



For more information contact:

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pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Huling Branch Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Remediation Area Hunter and Public Access Map

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