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Type	poster
Title	<i>Evaluating Mitigation Success in the Little Coal River</i>
Abstract	<p>Surface mining and mountaintop removal/valley fill (MTR/VF) coal mining raises numerous questions about hydrologic impacts. The effects of mining are a major problem locally, but can also miles downstream. The coal industry uses off- site mitigation as an attempt to compensate for what has been destroyed. Off-site mitigation is the attempt to gain lost functions in an area that is deemed “restorable”. The Little coal River in Kanawha and Lincoln County is being used as an off-site mitigation area. The river is affected mainly by sedimentation from miles upstream. The WVDEP has placed habitat enhancing structures along a portion of the Little Coal River and plan to place more in the fall/winter of this year. I will present my preliminary data quantifying the local physical and biological benefits of the habitat enhancing structures. Data such as, sediment type, depth, decomposition, cross sectional surveys, and longitudinal profile were conducted on existing structures and the locations of proposed structures. Also, I will be looking at the macro-invertebrates within different substrate types. Next year the same surveys will be conducted for final analysis. The goals of this research is to get a better understanding of the downstream affects of MTR/VF, evaluate the success of the structures, and to develop a long term management plan for the Little Coal River.</p>