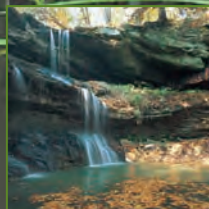


ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

*A primer about the history, cause, and
solutions to abandoned mine drainage*



Forward

The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition (SRWC) formed in December 1994 to address the abandoned mine drainage impacting the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. The SRWC is a public-private partnership effort consisting of governmental agencies, private industry including mining companies and environmental consultants, nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and concerned citizens. To date, approximately 18 passive treatment systems have been installed that are treating about 750 million gallons of mine drainage every year, which has resulted in over 10 miles of streams that have been restored. Some of these streams now have fish living in them for the first time in 50-100 years.

After several years of success, the SRWC wanted to write a book for the general public to provide an overview of the history, cause, and solutions to abandoned mine drainage as well as describe the overall approach and successes of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition. The book entitled *Accepting the Challenge* was first published by the nonprofit organization Stream Restoration Incorporated in 2001.

Approximately 6,000 copies of the book have been printed to date and distributed to people throughout the world. The books were given free of charge to anyone who was interested in the subject matter and therefore there was not a sustainable funding source for the printing of future copies other than grants and individual donations. As we were running out of copies of our third printing, the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition realized that by creating an electronic version, we could make the book available to the entire world via the internet as well as make the book more interactive.

Through a generous grant provided by the [Foundation For Pennsylvania Watersheds](#), we have converted *Accepting the Challenge* to a digital format. As part of the project, we have created links from italicized words in the narrative to the glossary in the back by simply clicking on the word. We also created an expanded Table of Contents by utilizing the Bookmarks feature in PDF documents. In addition, we created links (indicated by blue underlines) within the narrative to related web based resources as well as provided a listing of links to additional related resources and lesson plans in the back of the book. Finally, we provided a number of links to video content located on the internet indicated by the movie icon. These videos provide an opportunity to further explore various subject matters in the book and at times to help the reader envision and appreciate the industrial heritage of Pennsylvania.

We hope by providing this book in electronic format, we will be able to greatly expand its availability as a resource and help more people “Accept the Challenge” to restore their own watersheds.

For additional information please check the [Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition](#) and/or [Stream Restoration Incorporated](#) websites.

Thank you,

Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition

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ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE

A Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Publication

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