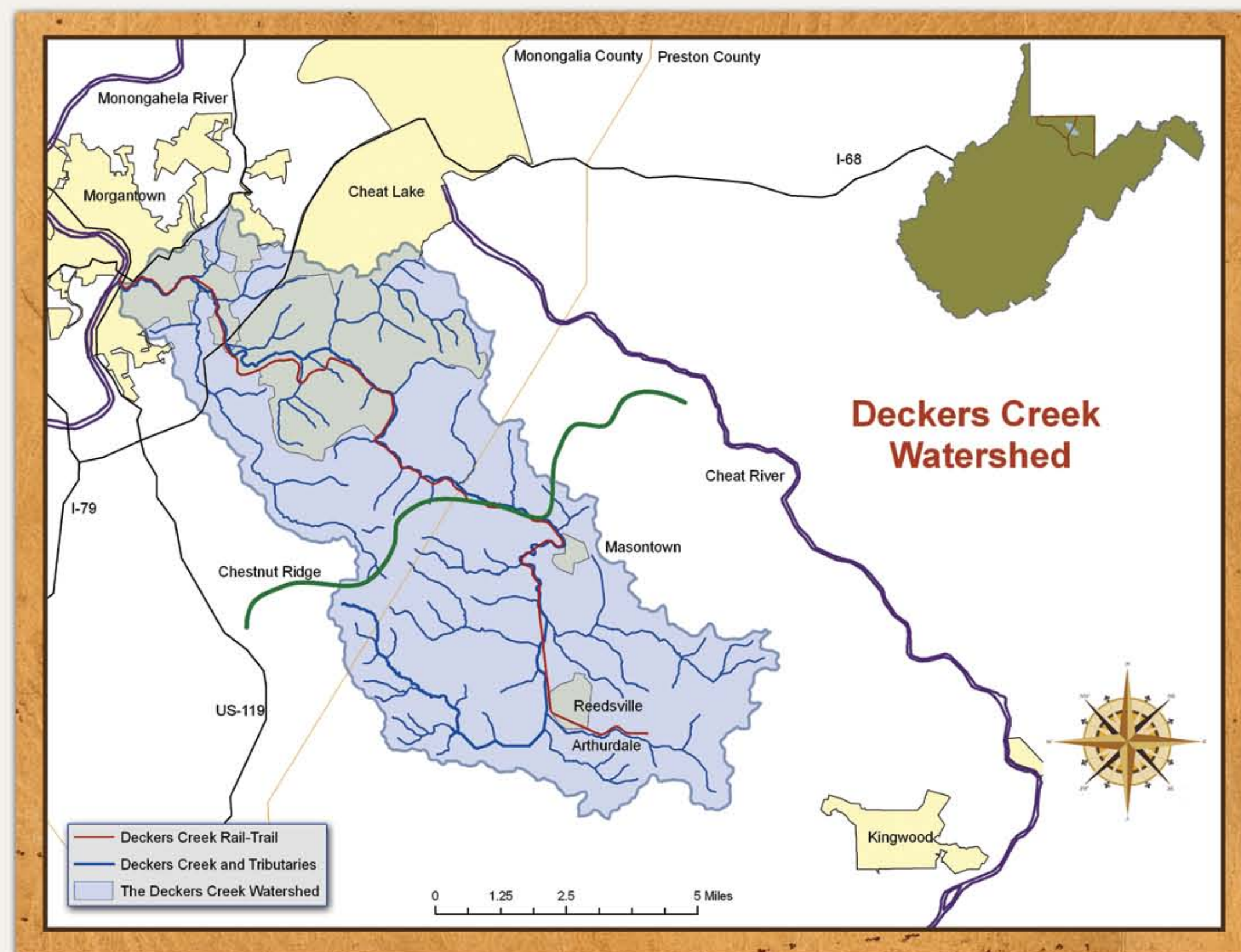




FISH EYE VIEW



Historically, coal mining, logging, and agricultural activities have left a mark on the Deckers Creek watershed. Many streams in the watershed that have a red-orange color are barely able to support aquatic life because of acid mine drainage from abandoned coal mines. In the past, portions of Deckers Creek were channelized to reduce flooding and streamside trees were removed to create more farmland, causing parts of the creek to fill in with sediment and become warm and sluggish. In addition to these stressors, litter and untreated sewage are two more common pollutants in the Deckers Creek watershed.

Insect, amphibian, and fish populations are slowly returning to Deckers Creek as communities work together to remedy pollution problems.



▶ White Sucker



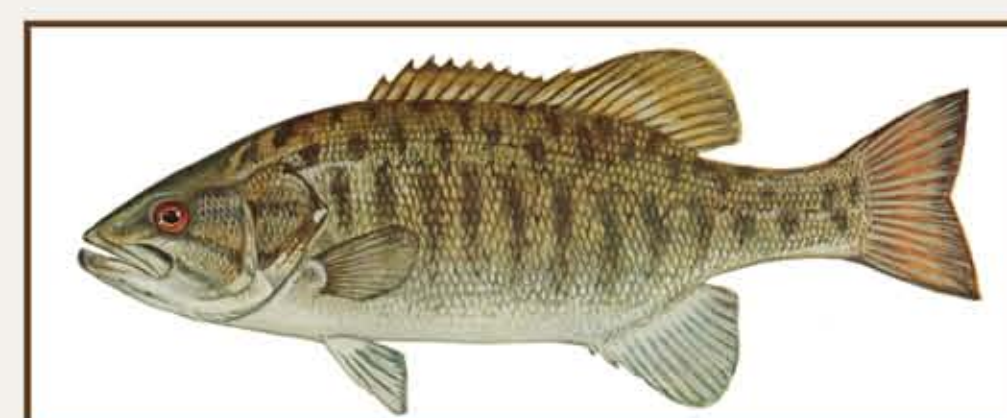
▶ Creek Chub



▶ Bluegill



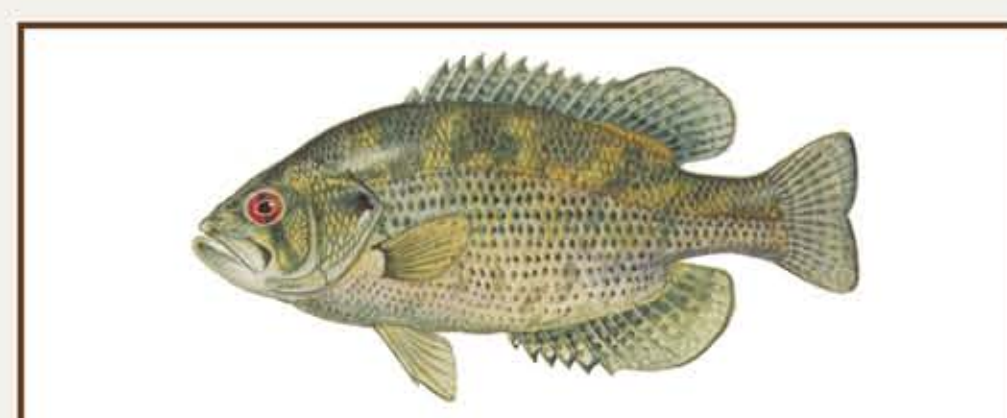
▶ Bullhead Catfish



▶ Smallmouth Bass



▶ Pumpkinseed Sunfish



▶ Rock Bass



▶ Fantail Darter

Fish commonly found in Deckers Creek and its tributaries include smallmouth bass, bluegill, yellow bullhead catfish, creek chubs, white suckers, and green sunfish. Other less common species found over the past few years include rock bass, chain pickerel, sauger, pumpkinseed sunfish, and other minnows and darters. Warmer water temperatures now found in Deckers Creek caused by loss of tree canopy cover and agricultural practices raise questions about whether the creek could ever support trout again. However, a smallmouth bass fishery in Deckers Creek could thrive from its headwaters all the way through Morgantown to the Monongahela River once the discharge from the large Richard mine is treated.

Where to Throw a Line

You can catch large sunfish, smallmouth bass, and sometimes sauger and freshwater drum in Deckers Creek near its mouth at the Monongahela River and around the Dellslow Bridge.

Go fishing for bass, sunfish, and catfish through Reedsville and Arthurdale.

Learn more about the fish of Deckers Creek at the Friends of Deckers Creek website:
www.deckerscreek.org

