



Figure 4. Aerial view looking west along Interstate 80 at the Clintonville Interchange in the Big Scrubgrass Creek Watershed. This highway intersects with Interstate 79 west of the watershed providing excellent access to the area from major population centers, which should help promote future economic growth in the area.



Figure 5. Aerial view looking upstream along the Allegheny River at Kennerdell. The confluence of Big Scrubgrass Creek is to the left just below the bridge, Sediment pollution from unreclaimed strip mines in the watershed can be seen along the edge of the river downstream from the confluence. Most of the area on the left side of the river upstream from the confluence in this picture is being developed as the Allegheny River State Park.

A survey by the Soil Conservation Service indicates that the land use in the watershed is 60% forest, 20% idle, 15% agriculture, and 5% roads, gamelands and miscellaneous. One of the major changes in the last decade has been the decline in agriculture in the watershed.

Approximately 5% of the land has changed from agriculture to idle or woodland as farmers seek jobs in other areas. In order to derive some income from the land, many owners sold the coal.

The mining and return to idle conditions has caused the assessed value of the land to increase by only one percent per year during the past ten years. This has had a disasterous effect on the tax base of the community.

Employment in Venango County has experienced a decline over the past ten years also. The following brief table shows the trend in the three major employment areas:

TABLE 3

Venango County Employment Statistics

<u>Type of Occupation</u>	Number of Employees in <u>1960</u>	Number of Employees in <u>1970</u>
Agriculture	614	265
Mining	333	240
Manufacturing	8125	7668

A large portion of the coal reserves of Venango County are in the Big Scrubgrass Creek Watershed. The coal is of low quality and occurs in thin seams which has made it uneconomical to mine on a large scale. Coal production in the County has declined in the past 15 years, as shown by the following figures from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (formerly Department of Mines and Mineral Industries).

TABLE 4

Venango County Coal Production

Year	Tons
1955	701,720
1960	676,517
1968	445,000
1970	464,719

The watershed has a pleasant rolling topography and, except for the strip mined areas, the scenery is attractive farmland and woodland. Clintonville has installed a public water supply and sewage treatment facilities which, together with the interchange on Interstate 80 at the Borough line, could transform this area into an expanding industrial, commercial and recreational community. The potential for recreational opportunities is especially apparent. During the 1971 hunting season, 2925 deer and 1 bear were harvested in Venango County and local residents recall that in the early 1950's, fishermen lined the banks of Scrubgrass Creek on the opening day of trout fishing season. Since 1960, the Pennsylvania State Fish Commission has not stocked the stream because of fish kills from acid mine drainage, but with proper pollution abatement the fishing could be restored.



Figure 6. Aerial view of mine site 17 in the Gilmore Run Subwatershed. Acid mine drainage from strip mines such as this one has polluted the main stream so that trout fishing has been completely eliminated in the watershed.