RAMP has \$2.5 million to reclaim mines

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HARRISBURG - Soil administer the new Rural funds will be used to reclaim officials will have nearly \$2.5 million in Pennsylvania to

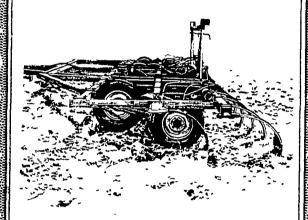
Conservation Service (SCS) 'Abandoned Mine Program (RAMP).

The cost-share assistance



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several thousand acres of orphaned mine lands that present an extreme danger to public health and safety," says Graham Munkittrick, SCS State conservationist.

The voluntary program was established under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. It was designed to protect people and the environment from the adverse affects of past coal mining.

According to Munkittrick, People who own or control

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nonfederal land that has been mined for coal, may be eligible for cost sharing. Local SCS district conservationists and conservation district officials are reviewing mined acres at this time to determine which ones may have the greatest need for reclamation work.

"Under the program, County reclamation committees with the guidance of local conservation district s will screen applications to identify the highest priority

"A state reclamation committee comprised of private, local, state, and federal representatives will make the final determination on the sequence of work to be done. The appointments of this committee will be announced

before February 1, 1979," according to Munkittrick.

"In the first year or so of the new program, only higher priority projects will be treated," Munkittrick pointed out, "where we can protect public health, safety, general welfare, and property from extreme danger caused by past mining practices."

Ephrata ag club goes camping

EPHRATA - Twelve members of the Junior Ag. Club at Ephrata Junior High School will spend this weekend in Tioga County to cut browse for deer and learn about wildlife management. It is a part of their wildlife conservation studies program, headed by Charles Ackley.

The group will be traveling by van, accompanied by Ackley and Leonard Martin, father of one of the students. They will set up camp at the Buccaneer Hunting Camp near Draper and will use snowmobiles to make the 11/2 mile trip from the vans to the cabin. And they'll be doing their own cooking, says Ackley.

David Brown, Pennsylvania Game Commissiion land manager in Potter and Tioga Counties, will meet the

group at the State Game Lands and guide them on a walking tour. Wildlife and game land management practices will be featured in discussions and demonstrations.

The group departed Ephrata Thursday afternon and will begin cutting browse the following morning.

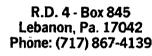
Aside from cutting browse and lerning more about nature, the group will also visit the Hill Creek State Park and Beaver Colony, the R. Miller Store and Rifle Collection, the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, a lumber museum and Denton Hill skiing area, a fish hatchery, and attend church services Sunday morning.

The group will depart for the journey home Sunday afternoon.



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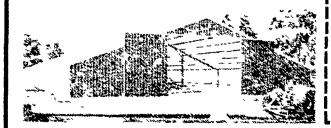




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