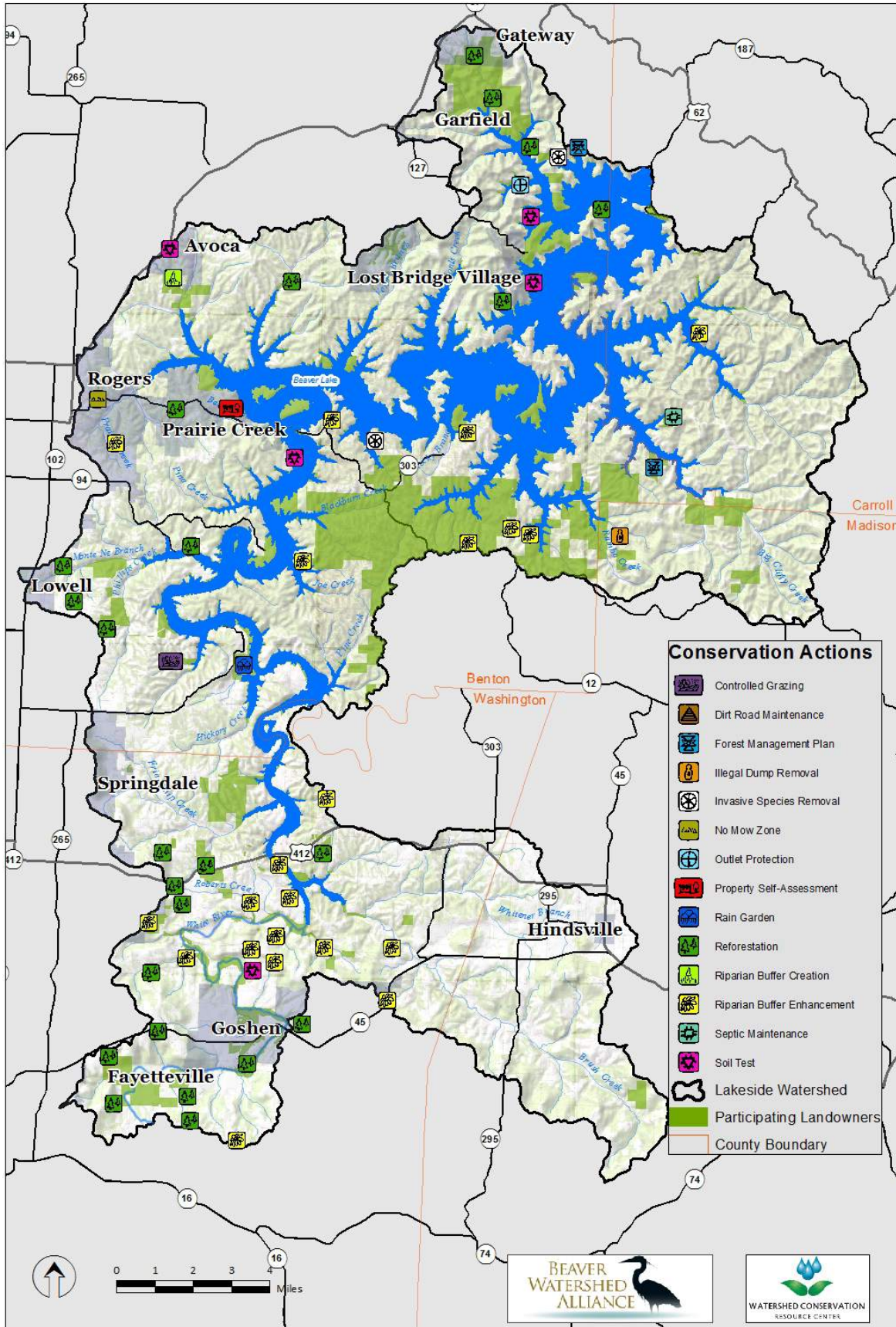


The value of your interest and involvement in the voluntary watershed protection effort of our regional water supply is priceless and appreciated! Read, like, and share this newsletter to show off to your friends and family the value of YOUR contributions!

[View this email in your browser](#)



# Lakeside Watershed Conservation Actions Beaver Lake



This map shows landowner participation and just a sample of the many different

types of conservation actions taken by your friends and neighbors who are living in or managing land in the Beaver Lake-White River watershed this past year.



## About BWA

The Beaver Watershed Alliance was formed in 2011 to proactively protect, maintain, and enhance the water quality of Beaver Lake and the integrity of its watershed through outreach and education, voluntary best management practice implementation, and scientific investigation. BWA represents a diverse stakeholder group from conservation, education, water utilities, technical and science, agriculture, recreation, business, and local government groups working together for the goal of clean water.

## Upcoming Events

### January 4 - 8

Free Electronics Recycling  
Boston Mountain Solid Waste  
Fayetteville, Springdale, &  
Prairie Grove

[Click here for details](#)

### January 27

Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup of  
Hwy 412  
Valero Gas Station  
17410 Hwy 412, Springdale

## Source Water Protection Services Begin With You

The landowners in the Beaver Lake Watershed are greatly appreciative of the assistance that has been provided to them by the Beaver Watershed Alliance. The *Source Water Protection Services* that we provide are made possible only by the involvement of agencies, foundations, clients, corporate and individual sponsors, and volunteers like you. And we still need your help in 2016 to achieve our shared conservation goals!

While ramping up our work to include 15% (172,000 acres) of the watershed last year was made possible by our partners, the landowners and volunteers implementing a few hundred conservation actions or best management practices (BMPs) as shown in the map above are the folk actually making the water quality better. It is neat to see the variety of practices that people are using and where they occur in the Beaver Lake Watershed. Thousands more are needed though, and we hope you will either join in or continuing to make this positive difference for our region.

Beaver Watershed Alliance is thankful to our many partners that help us provide *Source Water Protection Services*. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Environmental Protection Agency section 319 grant program, Walton Family Foundation, United States Endowment for Forestry and Communities, regional water districts, Tyson Foods Inc., a whole slew of municipalities like Washington County, Fayetteville, Bentonville,

### January 30

Forest Management  
Workshop  
Hobbs State Park  
20201 AR Hwy 12  
Rogers, AR 72756

### February 27

Richland Creek Cleanup  
Goshen Community Building  
244 Clark St. Goshen, AR

### March 3

Streamside Management  
Workshop for Landowners  
Carroll Electric, Huntsville AR

### March 10

Riparian Planting Events  
War Eagle Watershed

### March 17

War Eagle Cleanup  
Withrow Springs State Park

Check out our [online calendar](#)  
for more detailed information  
on upcoming events!

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Please share this newsletter  
with your friends and  
neighbors so that they can  
have the opportunity to  
become active members in the  
Beaver Watershed  
community.

Springdale, Pea Ridge, and Rogers Water Utility along with many other businesses and people are helping to fund important work with landowners in the watershed to help keep our water clean.

While funding for this important work is extremely limited, we are proud to be able to deliver quality *Source Water Protection Services*, and none of this could be possible without investments of energy, time and/or financial support for clean water from willing conservation partners, landowners or volunteers like you. **To you**, the Alliance is truly appreciative and we look forward to working with you to achieve a lot more voluntary environmental improvements in 2016!



## Beaver Watershed Alliance Turns 5!

As the Alliance turns 5 years old this year, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the growth and development of our *Source Water Protection Services*. Last year alone, we expanded our landowner outreach from 1,100 landowners to 8,800 throughout the Beaver Lake Watershed. Our

voluntary and landowner guided BMP implementation effort is now over 600 BMPs, which is a 200% increase from 2014. The reach of this e-newsletter is now well over 2,000 recipients. With media placements across a region much larger than our watershed border, we reached over 1 million people in 2015 with clean water messaging. Over \$100,000 was for research was commissioned last year which has already produced meaningful outputs from which our conservation, restoration, and outreach efforts are being guided. All of our advancements will be incorporated into our nine-element [Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Strategy \(BLWPS\)](#) to make it more locally relevant and useful for stakeholders while also garnering the additional conservation resources which our watershed needs to meet the demands of the future and to sustain our current quality of life, environment, and economic prosperity in NWA.

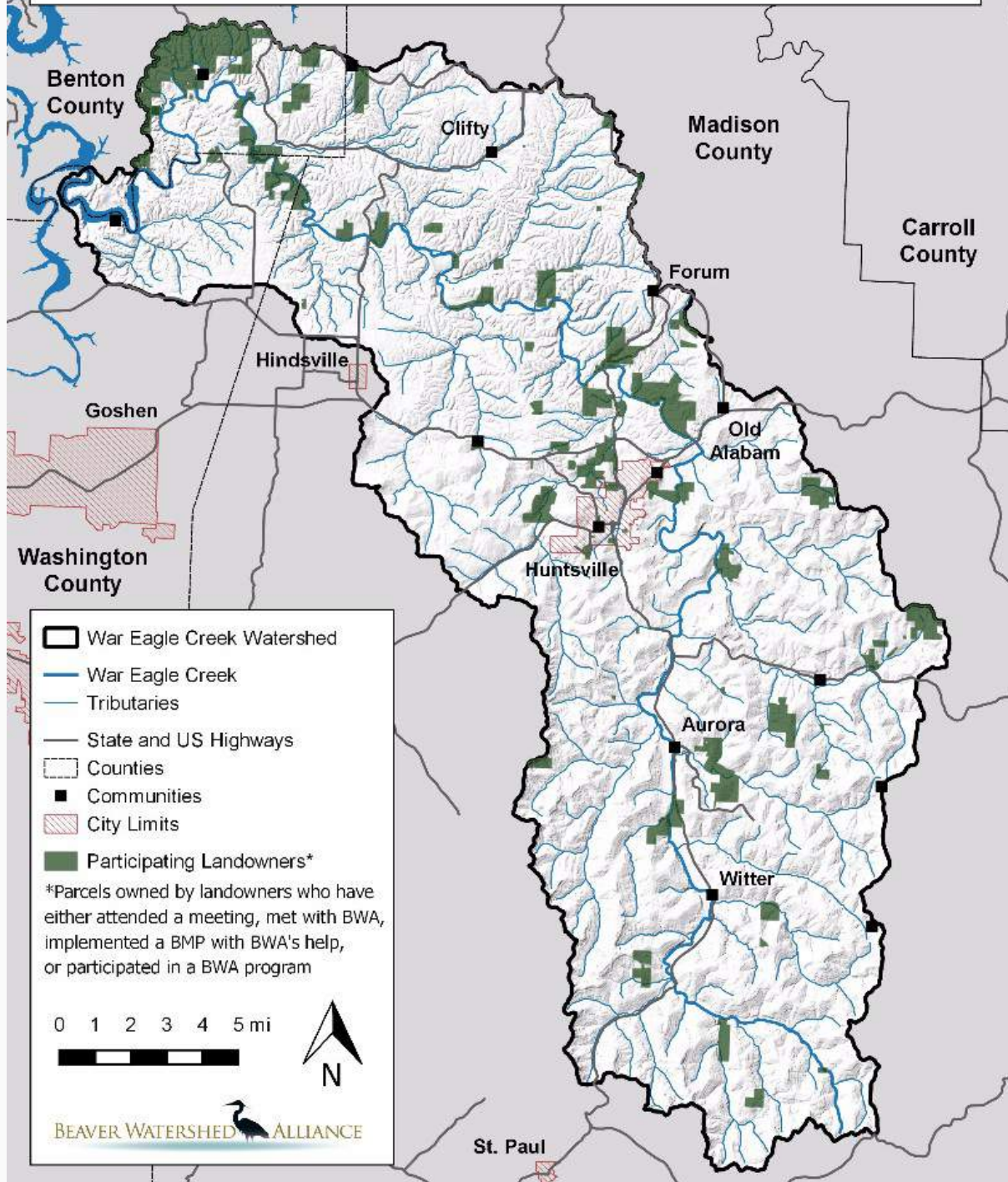
We have come so far in such a short amount of time, but we also need to achieve a necessary amount of conservation quickly and we still have a long way to go and a short time to get there. The words "Giddy Up" come to mind. The BLWPS calls for \$5 million per year for watershed conservation, yet we've only been able to muster about \$2 million on average as a region for the past 4 years. Despite this shortage of funding, we have made great strides towards our goals with help from a lot of willing landowners, partners, a staff that believes it is their mission to do their absolute best (working early mornings, long days, late nights and weekends), and AWESOME volunteers who want to meet the regional challenge of *voluntarily* protecting our water source.

# Recent Study Shows Retention Ponds can Slow Stormwater Runoff

A recent [study](#) conducted by University of Arkansas and funded by Beaver Watershed Alliance modeled the effect of small ponds on hydrology of the White River West Fork. Researchers showed that 22 one-acre ponds with a depth of about 8 ft. in the West Fork drainage (124 square miles) could reduce runoff by about 15% during peak-flow events, which occur during storms or heavy rains. Retention ponds have the ability to treat polluted water from runoff by allowing the water to settle in the pond instead of racing overland to creeks, streams, and rivers. Plants then have the opportunity to break down or use the nutrients carried in the water and the water has time to soak into the soil, which naturally filters and cleans the water before it enters the groundwater supply. When polluted runoff is treated by the environment, municipalities save money because the water districts do not have to treat it chemically before it enters our drinking supply. Hopefully this study will give guidance to future research and best management practices that can be implemented in the Beaver Watershed soon.

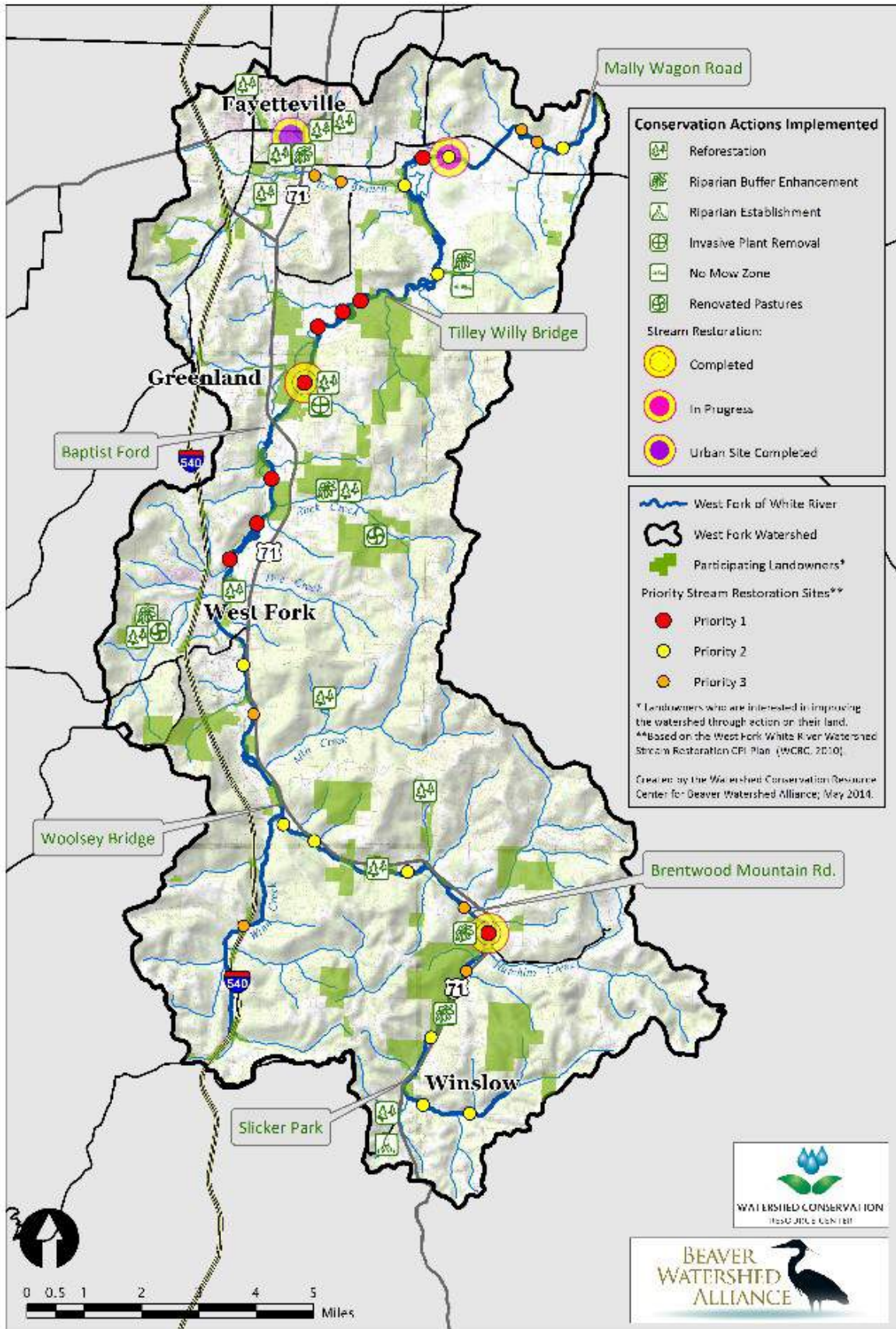


# War Eagle Creek Riparian Management Education and Demonstration Project



In only one year, 8% or 16,700 acres worth of War Eagle Creek Watershed landowners have begun participating with the Alliance in voluntary watershed protection activities. We look forward to increasing technical and financial assistance to landowners to increase riparian and forest areas, and implement a variety of BMPs over the coming year!

# West Fork White River Conservation Actions



In 2014 an initial outreach project to seek working relationships and knowledge from



landowners took place. We took note of what the landowners needs and interests were so that we could better help them achieve our shared conservation goals, and together we were able to help foster a culture of stewardship within the watershed and implement a few hundred best management practices - some of which are shown in the map above. We expect 2016 will be filled with even more conservation plans and practices for the forest, pasture, and urban portions of the West Fork.

Planting a few thousand trees, removing a few thousand invasive plants, and keeping the trash out of this watershed will require the help of at least a few hundred dedicated landowners or volunteers like you.

***Working together we can have  
clean water forever!***

## Thank You to Our Friends in Watershed Protection



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