



Winter 2016

This newsletter is being sent to you because our records show that you own or reside on streamside property in the Beaver Lake Watershed. *If you would prefer to receive a digital copy only or have your name removed entirely from this mailing list, please notify the Beaver Watershed Alliance by calling 479-750-8007.*

Inside this issue:

The Spirit of Community-Driven Watershed Protection	1
Glossary	1
White River, Richland Creek, Middle Fork Watershed News	2
Riparian Planting Guide Available	3
BMP Spotlight: Invasive Plant Mgmt. and Eradication	3
West Fork White River Watershed Restoration	4
Forest Management Increasing in Watershed	4
Pond Placement Optimization Program	5
Lakeside and West Fork Restoration Initiative	5
Upcoming Events And Property	6

The Spirit of Community-Driven Watershed Protection

Hello Beaver Lake Watershed Resident, Landowner, or Manager,

Winter, or what is supposed to be winter, will soon be upon us. If trends continue, this will be the warmest one in a long time and there won't be excessive precipitation. According to the State Meteorologist, La Nina weather pattern is supposed to be setting up with most of the State of Arkansas receiving less than average rainfall over the next few years and with Northwest Arkansas being on the transition zone. What else is new!?! Regardless of more or less rainfall than normal, the dry times are the best times to make a lot of water quality gains.

Nonpoint source pollution comes from too many places to mention, and it builds up everywhere on the surface of the land. Automobile fluids, animal waste, nutrients, sediment, trash, and etc. all accumulate and then eventually it rains and much of this, if not all in the case of an impervious surface like a parking lot, gets carried into a ditch, stream, and then into Beaver Lake..

Luckily, we have a lot of extra special landowners and managers in the Beaver Lake Watershed that want to help protect and improve the water quality of the stream they live by and/or the lake from which they get their drinking water! We hope that you enjoy this issue of our newsletter in which we highlight improving wildlife habitat to also protect water quality through using select Best Management Practices (BMPs).

John Pennington, Executive Director, Beaver Watershed Alliance

Glossary of Newsletter Words

Aquatic Macroinvertebrates — *aquatic insects and non-insects that live in the substrate of streams.*

Best Management Practice (BMP)— a practice that has been proven effective and practical for addressing sediment, nutrient, and other pollutants.

Bioswale— stormwater runoff conveyance systems composed of plants, sand, soil, and/or rocks that absorb and slow runoff water, filter pollutants, and provide wildlife habitat.

Cultural management practice—

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)— a program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural

Special thanks to sponsors and partners:

Mt Olive Water Association



producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

Low Density Development— Single family homes or small developments on large lots.

Urban Sprawl—Expansion of human populations away from central urban areas into low-density.

Water Quality Impairment— A waterbody is considered to be impaired when it no longer meets standards established for an existing use such as swimming, wading, drinking, agriculture, or aquatic life use.

White River, Richland Creek and Middle Fork Project

We are excited to now be offering increased funding, programming and technical assistance to landowners in the White River, Richland Creek, and Middle Fork Watersheds!

Through a series of project introduction meetings held in Pettigrew, St. Paul, Goshen, Elkins, Wesley, and Combs we have collected great support from landowners and input about the type of programming and resources they are interested in both receiving and providing.

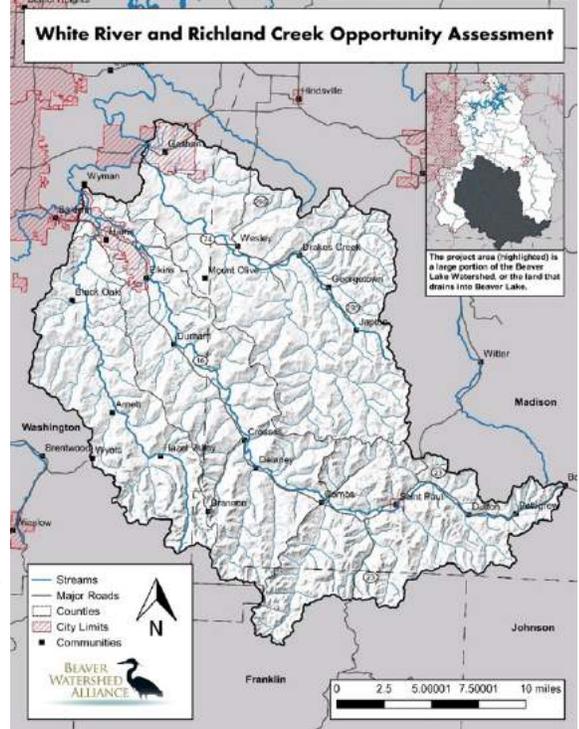
It is exciting to have landowners that are interested in sharing their pasture, forest, or streamside **best management practices (BMPs)** with other landowners in the watershed.

Over the next two years we are excited to see how many BMP demonstration projects we can help establish with landowners and municipalities in this watershed area.



Please contact Melissa Welch our new Program Coordinator for this project. She especially enjoys meeting and working with landowners to help make water quality improvements that benefit aquatic macroinvertebrates.

Melissa@beaverwatershedalliance.org
Cell: 479-719-5520
Office: 479-750-8007



Participate in our Free Tree and Shrub Program!

Enhance wildlife habitat and reduce erosion by planting native tree and shrub seedlings on your property!

Native plants offer many benefits for water quality and wildlife habitat, and are well-adapted for resilience here, in the Ozarks. Planting native trees and shrubs on your property in streamside areas, pasture areas, or upland forest areas helps prevent erosion, increase groundwater infiltration, and increase wildlife habitat and property value. All properties in the Beaver Lake Watershed qualify for this program! We have a list of over 30 native trees and shrubs that are available for order, and the full plant list is available upon request. Call (479) 750-8007 or email info@beaverwatershedalliance.org for more information and to take advantage of this program.



Beaver Water District



ARKANSAS WATER RESOURCES CENTER



Boston Mountain SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

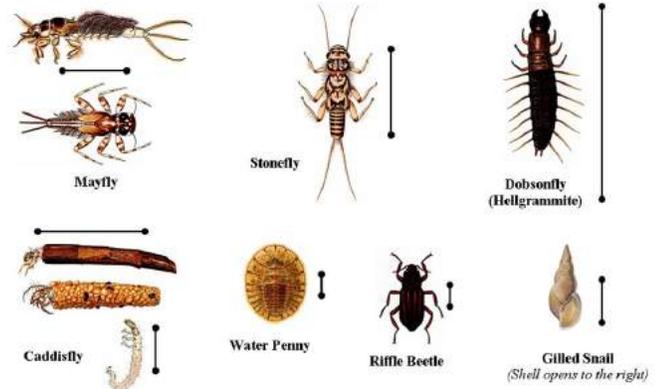
BMP Cost Share Mini-Grant Program

To help offset the cost of BMP establishment for landowners the Beaver Watershed Alliance is initiating a new mini-grant program. The program will help fund projects associated with pasture, streamside, forest, homeowner, and urban BMPs. To apply for funding please contact BWA by email info@beaverwatershedalliance.org or phone (479) 750-8007. Rain gardens, bioswales, fencing, ponds, streambank stabilization, culverts, pasture renovation, native plant establishment, and many more BMPs qualify for funding.

Wildlife Habit Improvement on Land Works For Water Too

A lot of wildlife habitat improvement techniques such as creating and enhancing riparian buffers, improving forest health through thinning, improving native plant diversity on your property, conducting prescribed burns, installing rain gardens and ponds, creating edge of field buffers, and so on improve not only terrestrial habitat for birds, mammals, pollinators, reptiles, and amphibians but also aquatic habitat for benthic macroinvertebrates.

Benthic macroinvertebrates are aquatic insects that live their whole life or part of their life in the substrate of streams. Only certain aquatic invertebrates are found in water that is unpolluted, while other species are more tolerant to changes in water quality. Mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies are the top three aquatic invertebrates to look at when checking water quality in a stream. Stoneflies are the least tolerant of the three to pollution, but overall if you are looking to see if your stream is polluted, the absence of any of these three aquatic insects is an early warning sign of pollution.



BMP Spotlight: Forest Management and Wildlife Plans

Silvicultural practices can cause huge erosion issues if best management practices are not used when harvesting trees. The best way to prevent erosion from happening and protecting the water quality of Beaver Lake is to get a free Forest Management or Wildlife Plan depending on what your needs are.

Both plans are available for free by contacting the Arkansas Forestry Commission for the Forest Management Plan and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for the Wildlife Management Plan. The Forest Management Plan is an overall plan to keep your forest healthy, while the Wildlife Management Plan is useful for attracting certain wildlife to your property by planting specific trees, shrubs, and grasses. They are both useful in protecting water quality and preventing erosion, so choose which one works best for you.

Whether you take charge on your own where you live or work, or you would like to join us at an event, please learn more by visiting www.beaverwatershedalliance.org or by contacting us at info@beaverwatershedalliance.org or 479-750-8007.



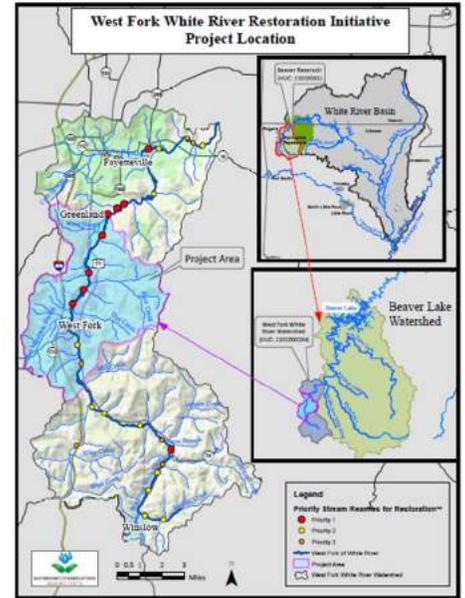
West Fork Watershed Restoration Initiative is Underway!

Over \$8.6 million will be devoted to improve water quality and wildlife habitat in the central portion of the West Fork White River Watershed in Northwest Arkansas over the next five years. Roughly \$200,000 in **EQIP** funding will be available annually to pasture, streamside and forest landowners in the central portion of the West Fork White River from October 2017—2021.

Key steps for landowners to take in order to qualify for funding are:

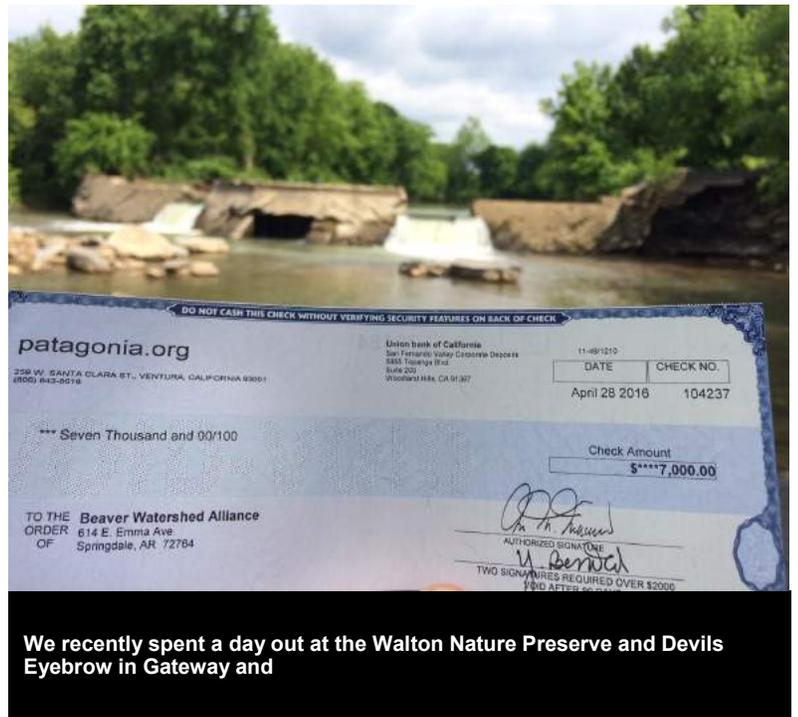
- 1) Call the NRCS at 479-442-4160 to let them know you are interested.
- 2) Based on your check-in with NRCS you will either need to provide your property deed or get registered with the Farm Service Agency so that you may be eligible to apply for funding.
- 3) Visit with BWA and NRCS staff to talk about the soil, water, wildlife, or forest goals that you have and to find out more about the resources available to help you meet your goals.

Resources are still available for landowners outside of this project area, so be sure to check in with the BWA at 479-750-8007 or NRCS if you would like assistance of any kind with your natural resource management activities.



Patagonia Grant to Explore Potential Dam Removal

The West Fork White River has lost about one-third of all aquatic life from the historical record established in the late 1800's. The reasons for this can be attributed mostly to the human influences of the past. Conversion of forested land to pasture and/or urban area, gravel extraction, clearing of riparian area, filling of floodplain, low-water bridges, low-head dams, pollution of many forms, and much more have all surely contributed to the decline of water quality, aquatic habitat, and the aquatic species that depend on the high quality of these environmental factors to complete their lifecycles.

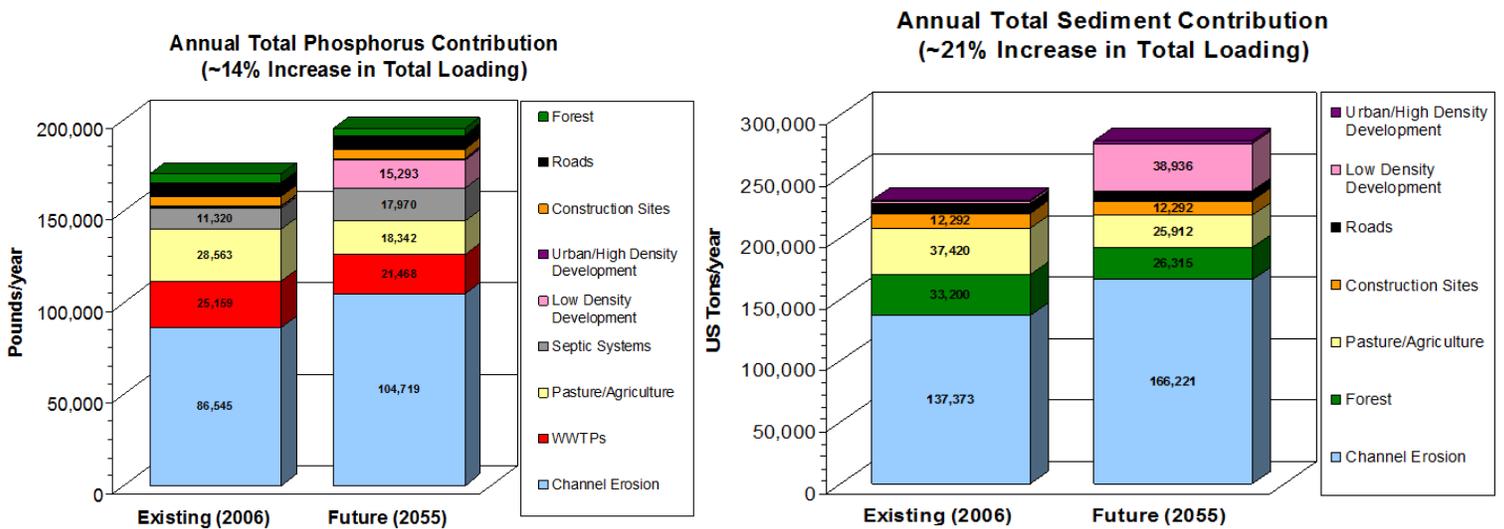


Since the old lowhead dam in South Fayetteville no longer serves as a water supply, is deteriorating, and could potentially be a part of an existing **water quality impairment** on the West Fork White River and is limiting the migration of certain aquatic species like spoonbills, Patagonia felt compelled to fund some water quality improvements in the West Fork White River and public outreach, education, and input sessions regarding the potential benefits and drawbacks associated with a possible decommissioning of the dam. We encourage residents of the West Fork White River to participate in the public meetings regarding this watershed issue and will be advertising the public input meetings when they are established in early 2017. If you are interested in participating or helping to spread the work please let us know! We'll be here at 479-750-8007 or info@beaverwatershedalliance.org.



Water Quality Issues in the Beaver Lake Watershed

We spend a lot of time promoting BMPs and organizing workshops to help equip landowners and land managers with the information necessary to address the existing and future water quality issues in the Beaver Lake Watershed. Since a Picture is worth a thousand words, we thought that we would show two pictures.



The average annual sediment contribution is shown on the left and the average annual phosphorus contribution is shown on the right. Phosphorus mirrors the sediment contribution since it is strongly attached to particles of soil. As soil washes, so does phosphorus. For every ton of sediment, there is about a pound of phosphorus. When looking at these graphs it is obvious that streambank erosion is the number one source of pollution to Beaver Lake, it is also obvious that **low density development** is expected to increase significantly as our area continues to grow and develop. The good news is that we can make beneficial decisions each day to prevent the sediment and phosphorus loading from increasing as much as is forecasted, or as occurs annually. Learning more about how to achieve beneficial urban growth and streambank erosion stabilization or prevention is only a phone call away, please give us a call today or when you are ready to learn more about how you can do your part! Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Lakeside and West Fork Resto-



We look forward to assisting the City of Winslow with their streambank erosion issue at Peek's Park! Let us know if you would like help protecting water quality, sometimes it takes a team approach to address erosion.

In this program to continue providing educational programming and one on one technical support with landowners to implement **best management practices (BMPs)** we have recently received \$27,000 dollars from Tyson Foods and Patagonia to help install streambank stabilization and riparian buffers in the West Fork and Lakeside watersheds. At least half of these dollars have already been allocated to projects in Greenland and Winslow, we wonder where they can be allocated next! In this project we have provided over 92 property site visits with landowners that have lead to 128 BMPs being established. If you have not checked in with us, but have been meaning to, please do so before our remaining cash runs out! Of course, it's not all about the money, and not everyone has an erosion problem—so if you are more into proactive forest, pasture, wildlife, or water quality management at your place that just requires a little more information, planning, or technical assistance please call Jennifer Ogle at 479-750-

8007 or email her at



614 E. Emma Ave., Ste. M438
Springdale, AR 72764

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FAYETTEVILLE, AR
PERMIT #34

**Inside:
Grants and Cost
Share Available!**



Free Programs	Time	Date	Location
Program	9:00 am - 3:00 pm	9/29/16	Lowell
BWA Speaker Series	11:30am - 1:00 pm	2//16	
Streamside Management Workshop	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	3//16	To Be Announced
Rain Garden Workshop	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	4//16	To Be Announced
Forest Landowner Demonstration Day	9:00 pm - 3:00 pm	5//16	ArTex Ranch

Please email info@beaverwatershedalliance.org or call 479-750-8007 to RSVP or request more information.

Free Landowner Property Visits

Are you interested in finding out more about how you can help maintain and improve the water quality of Beaver Lake and the health of its watershed, while also saving some money or improving wildlife habitat and other natural resource values on your property? Then check in with us at info@beaverwatershedalliance.org or 479-750-8007 today to arrange a FREE appointment. We will be more than happy to meet with you at your convenience about your particular concerns, goals or interests. No issue is too small or too big.