

## Introduction

The Lost River Watershed lies within the Potomac Headwaters of Hardy County, West Virginia. The watershed is 28.3 miles long, flowing through Mathias, Lost City, and Baker. The Lost River Watershed is predominately agriculture and forest. There is presently little development; however, with the construction of Corridor-H, the watershed has the potential for substantial growth in population. The Lost River was placed on the 303(d) list in 1996 due to fecal coliform bacteria contamination due to undetermined sources. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study was developed for the river in 1998, which allocated fecal coliform loads to various land uses, and recommended reductions in fecal coliform loadings from each of those land uses so that the Lost River would meet water quality standards. The main focus of this watershed based plan is the main stem of the Lost River, where a majority of the resource concerns are located. However, all tributaries will be considered in this document, as well as in the planning and implementation phase of this watershed based plan.

## Geographical Extent

The Lost River originates in Hardy County, West Virginia. The river flows northeast to become the Cacapon River, which drains into the Potomac River, and then to the Chesapeake Bay. The Lost River is located entirely within Hardy County.

The watershed is approximately 116,600 acres. The Lost River watershed has a drainage area of 178 square miles. Forest and agriculture are the primary land uses with 18.7% of the land use in active agriculture. The watershed is very rural, with three small communities: Baker, Lost City, and Mathias, located on Rt. 259 and Rt. 55. There are three permitted point sources: East Hardy High School, East Hardy Early Middle School, and E.A. Hawse Nursing Home (AMFM of Hardy County, Inc). The construction of Corridor-H (a four-lane highway) across the northern quarter of the watershed, which began in 2001, has increased concerns of sedimentation in the river, as well as increased the potential for development. Landowners within the watershed have noted increased erosion of stream banks.

